

Final Report
11th Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) 2015

Thursday 29th October 2015 – Sunday 1st November 2015
The Grand Excelsior Hotel, Bur Dubai



Theme: Carrying the Message through Public Information and Cooperation
with the Professional Community” (PI & CPC)

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Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement of membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our Primary Purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Statement of Responsibility

I AM RESPONSIBLE,
WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE.
REACHES OUT FOR HELP,
I WANT THE HAND OF A.A
ALWAYS TO BE THERE
AND FOR THAT ... I AM RESPONSIBLE

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Asia Oceania Service Meeting – Statement of Purpose

The primary purpose of the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting seeks ways to accomplish this goal by providing a forum for the delegates to share the experience, strength and hope of the countries they represent and who come together from all parts of Asia and Oceania. It can also represent an expression of the Group Conscience throughout the region and provide a link to the World Service Meeting for countries unable to be represented there.

Experience has shown that a sound service structure enables the message to be delivered more effectively.

The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting encourages the planning of sound structures suited to the needs of the individual countries and the expansion of AA services to reach the alcoholic through the spoken word, literature and institutions work.

The AOSM recognises that it has no authority over any AA service or Group. The only decisions to be made by the AOSM are those which affect the meeting itself.

Guidelines for the Conduct of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. The AOSM shall meet every two years, alternating with the World Service Meeting. The AOSM shall be held in July in each odd numbered year, commencing July 2003.
2. The meeting shall be at least four nights and three days duration. The Delegates Orientation Session shall be held on the Thursday evening prior to the commencement of the AOSM.
3. Each Country/AA Regional Structure shall be eligible to send up to two Delegates.
4. Each Country/AA Regional Structure shall choose its own representatives. When country to country financial sponsorship is sought to attend the AOSM the request is to be made to the AOSM secretary in the first instance and the secretary will then approach AOSM delegates on the requestor's behalf

When country sponsorship is involved the following guideline shall apply:

- 1) The candidate should be endorsed by at least two AA groups where there is not yet an established structure in that Delegate's country.
 - 2) The candidate should have a minimum of three years unbroken sobriety as an elected representative, with service beyond group level (5th AOSM Hong Kong).
5. Neither Delegate qualification nor country structure shall be considered relevant as the criteria to be applied when considering attendance at the AOSM.
 6. The AOSM Chairperson shall rotate after each meeting.
 7. The Secretariat shall rotate after two AOSM meetings. The position concludes with the handing over of the final report of the 2nd meeting.
 8. Observers shall be welcome, with no voting rights, and with participation only at the discretion of the Chairperson.
 9. The Secretary, Chairperson and each delegate representing a country has one vote each.

Finances

As per Tradition Seven, the AOSM is fully self supporting, and in accordance with a decision taken at the 4th AOSM, a prudent reserve of \$500 per annum should be maintained.

Those countries in the region, that can afford to do so, are asked to contribute to this fund. The finances are used chiefly for the administration of the AOSM.

These funds are used to pay the expenses for: ☐ Chairperson ☐ Secretary ☐ Maintenance of the AOSM Website ☐ Postage and stationary fees that may be incurred.

The finance of the Delegates shall be the responsibility of each participating country/AA regional structure.

A delegate's contribution fee may apply to cover the out of pocket expenses for the Host Country, (meeting facilities, audio, printing etc).

These funds should not be used for Delegate sponsorship. Where a country is requesting sponsorship to send a Delegate to the AOSM, this should be done on a county-to-country basis via the AOSM Secretary.

Section 1 – Recommendations and Actions arising from the 11th AOSM Dubai 2015

Working with Others Committee

Committee Members:

Chairperson: Ste [REDACTED] N [REDACTED] ith, 2nd Term Delegate (New Zealand)
(Thailand), N [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Russia) M [REDACTED] , 1st Term Delegate
(Bangladesh)

The committee considered the requirements and need for ongoing work contact and communication between committee members and committees between the 2-yearly AOSMs.

Recommendations:

None

Chairperson for 2016/17, Simon M [REDACTED] (Bangladesh)

Alternate Chair for 2016/17, Nina M [REDACTED] (Russia)

Website, Literature & Publishing

Committee members:

Chairperson: Don [REDACTED] legat (India), Munkhtuvshin [REDACTED]
Delegate (Mongolia), [REDACTED] 1st term Delegate (Japan) [REDACTED]
(Iran), Jan [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (MERCAA)

Recommendations:

Motion: Make finding a solution to the lack of recording secretaries for committee meetings a priority

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The AOSM website should have the Secretary contact details (not webmaster) with an official email e.g. Secretaryasom@gmail.com.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The AOSM website should have the secretary, Treasurer, Chair and webmaster emails with designated email addresses

Carried (majority vote)

Motion Discontinue PASSWORD practice for website (webmaster proposal)
With Anonymity filter. As per the webmaster report it's a impediment for free accessibility best use of website, members frequently forget password & trouble him.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The password protected area be changed to make the website more user friendly there should be a member only area that is password protected area for current delegates.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The AOSM website provides a link to AOSM countries' websites and includes a statement saying that if people want literature in other languages they do directly to that website.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: To allow continuity of committee work which is in progress the outgoing delegate may be invited to continue to assist with the committee working with the committee until he/ she is replaced by incoming delegate, to brief & handover.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: To ensure ongoing delivery of service to fellowship in the region a progress chart will be available on website to track progress of literature committee work. Other committee members may adopt this process if they wish. Jane will do it within 3 months

Not voted on as AOSM delegates agreed it was not a matter to vote on

Chairperson for 2016/17, J [REDACTED]

Site Selection and Agenda Committee

Committee Members:

Chairperson (Acting): Joann [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate (Hong Kong), Lind [REDACTED], 1st Term Delegate (Bali, Indonesia), Bob M, 1st Term Delegate (Thailand), Tony [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate, (Australia), Jeremy [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Sri Lanka), Patrick T, Recording Secretary (Observer, Dubai)

Recommendations:

Motion: The updated scope for our committee is recommended to read "The purpose and function of this committee is the Selection of the site for each AOSM and wording of the agenda, with input from the Chair and Secretary, between AOSM meetings."

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The committee recommends that the 12th AOSM be held in Mongolia on 6th-9th July 2017, with the exact date to be confirmed with the host committee to ensure it does not conflict with any local or international events. (NAADAM a special Mongolian festival will immediately follow this conference). A back up offer from New Zealand was also kindly noted to have been offered if needed.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The committee recommends a clarification that the orientation session held on the first day of the AOSM is understood to be designed specifically for new delegates, and should going forward be led by the Agenda Committee. This session should explain in detail Roberts Rules of Order as commonly used for AA service meetings, the Third Legacy Process and also answer any questions on the key policies and traditions of the AOSM that 1st term delegates may bring from their countries.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: This committee recommends a printed "cheat sheet" be created for easy reference by new delegates.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The committee recommends that the theme of the 12th AOSM be "Preserving the Integrity of Carrying the Message".

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The committee recommended that as per a past accepted recommendation, "a proposed agenda should be sent to the delegates at least 6 months in advance to allow delegates to have

input. Therefore the committee recommends that the proposed agenda be sent to all delegates by 1 Jan, 2017 and that the final agenda be sent out three months prior to the next AOSM, on April 1st 2017.

Carried (majority vote)

Co Chairpersons for 2016/17, Tony [REDACTED] (Australia), Jeremy [REDACTED] (Sri Lanka)

Our committee made a commitment to have a Zoom meeting on 24th Feb, 2016 with the Mongolian Delegate to begin planning.

Date of next meeting: TBA 2015

Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee

Committee Members:

Chair: Tony [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate (MERCAA), Hea [REDACTED]

Sharon [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate, (Australia), Jenny D [REDACTED]

1st Term Delegate (Hong K [REDACTED])

Recommendations:

Finance

Motion: A two year budget be compiled and distributed to all delegates by March 2016 – all expected income and expenditure and compiled by the Treasurer and Chair and the Secretary of AOSM. The format should be as per previous AOSM budgets (2006/07). The reporting currency be US dollars and the local currency in which the local bank account is held.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: Treasurer be tasked with providing all members of the policy and administration committee with a six monthly report. The report will detail all items of expenditure and credits vs the budget

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The chair of the PAF committee will be responsible for arranging for the presentation of the accounts to the AOSM meeting

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: Non editable copies of the bank account should be posted on the website in a non password protected area for general access. The bank account deposit details should also be included on the website in the password protected area.

Carried (majority vote)

Policy

Motion: Point four of guidelines insert to following amended text:

4. Each Country/AA Regional Structure shall choose its own representatives. When country to country financial sponsorship is sought to attend the AOSM the request is to be made to the AOSM secretary in the first instance and the secretary will then approach AOSM delegates on the requestor's behalf

The following guideline shall apply:

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: A printed version of the agenda is to be made available to all delegates who attend the AOSM. The pack is to include the minutes of the previous recommendations from committee meetings and position descriptions for AOSM Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The Secretary is to call for submissions of applications for Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair six months prior to AOSM.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The map is to be updated after each AOSM by the Secretary and forwarded to the webmaster for inclusion on the website.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: Wherever possible when allocating new Delegates to Committees, their previous experience, and skills be taken into account as well as the balance of 1st and 2nd term Delegates.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: This committee recommends that a checklist with time frames for each position description be formulated for the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: The Committee recommends that fillable PDF Forms be made available on the website with the ability to be emailed.

Carried (majority vote)

Motion: This committee strongly recommends that the workshops at the next AOSM be replaced and the AOSM takes inventory 'Are we fulfilling our primary purpose'?

Not voted on – referred to the agenda committee for consideration.

Motion: We recommend that on the Thursday Night the AOSM has a one hour induction for new Delegates. The chair of each committee should explain their Composition Scope and Procedure Document and answer any questions that the New Delegates may have.

Not voted on – referred to the agenda committee for consideration.

Co Chairpersons for 2016/17 Heather H [REDACTED] (New Zealand), Jenny D [REDACTED] (Hong Kong)

General Business

Selection of a Delegate to present the 11th AOSM report to the WSM (Heather H New Zealand elected to present report)

Election of next Secretary and Alternate

- James [REDACTED] elected to secretary of AOSM 2016/2019
- Megan [REDACTED] (Hong Kong) elected alternate secretary of AOSM 2016/2019

Election of next Chairperson and Alternate

- Kunal [REDACTED] Dubai) elected AOSM Chairperson 2016/2017
- Joanne [REDACTED] Hong Kong) elected as Alternate AOSM chairperson 2016/2017

Other matters:

- Action point. Mary [REDACTED] International desk will ship copies of the WSM to the 2017 AOSM hosting committee. AOSM Secretary to liaise with GSO international desk
- Document of past AOSM decisions/recommendations circulated to all Committees for review and update
- Paper on rotation of Chair of AOSM prepared by the New Zealand Delegates allocated to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee to consider

The 11th AOSM closed with the Serenity Prayer

Section 2 – Addresses and General Reports

Welcome Address and Chairperson's Report

Good morning delegates observers translators, friends one and all, to this, the 11th, meeting of the Asia Oceania service meeting – AOSM.

How wonderful it is to see some of you again, some we met in India at the 9th AOSM, some at one of the 2 WSM (Mexico and New York) and some, more recently, at the 10th AOSM in Irkutsk. It never ceases to amaze me, that this once hopeless alcoholic who was thoroughly convinced he had no hope of recovery – of a sober life – is today not only sober but has the privilege of attending AA gatherings such as this, all over the world, Of course none of this would have happened if those that came before us, the pioneers and older sober members of our fellowship had not themselves carried the message of hope that is the core purpose of this gathering of the 11th AOSM. On your behalf I thank those that came before and I thank each one of you `not just for your presence here and willingness to do the work of the AOSM but for the kindness tolerance and goodwill toward each other that is part of the AA way.

It also gives me great pleasure to record on your behalf our thanks to our wonderful, energetic secretary, Brenda for her untiring work in tying all the loose ends together, of encouraging those of us that had to do reports, complete tasks, assignments, etc in order to get this 11th AOSM up and running. This brief mention of our gratitude, Brenda, is also conveyed to you from me personally as without your assistance things probably wouldn't have been completed in time.

And of course whilst I am recording our appreciation for the hard work that has gone on before the commencement of this 11th AOSM there are many others members who have worked behind the scenes and in particular, the host planning committee and its Chairman, Kunal.

He and they have done a magnificent job in a multitude of tasks. I must also express gratitude to the whole fellowship in this region of the world for their willingness to host the 11th AOSM and to this wonderful country and extra-ordinary city of Dubai for the opportunity to savour some of your city delights.

Thank you.

In between AOSMs there is of course a lot of good work in carrying the message that thankfully is now a fact of life in the Fellowship of AA. We will hear more details in the various Country Reports. I think the follow on visit to Mongolia and those who helped organising it deserves a special mention and expression of gratitude to all those involved. I well remember my visit to Mongolia to join in their 15th Anniversary celebration. It is a treasured memory and I particularly enjoyed the enthusiasm and vibrancy of the Fellowship there in Mongolia.

And of course to members of the various committees of the AOSM that met online or worked via email in between our meeting in Irkutsk 2 years ago and today - thanks from the bottom of our hearts. Whilst recognising this past work I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the

continuance of regular online meetings of the various committees especially these days with such good free tools that enable these meetings.

AOSM and future members of the Fellowship in the AOSM region will greatly benefit as a result of this ongoing work.

Now I wish to turn to our two guests (Mary and David) from the US/Canada GSO; thank you for joining us and we look forward to interacting, sharing and learning from and with you both. Your, and of course the ready willingness of your or our GSO US/Canada Board in facilitating your presence in Dubai is very much appreciated by all delegates here.

In closing I wish to make an observation about how important and difficult PI and CPC (our central themes that we will explore in detail over the next few days) really is... by reflecting on that first big breakthrough in communicating the AA message of hope that was achieved by the non-alcoholic journalist, Jack Alexander.

One on one interviews with the pioneers of AA didn't convey our message; of the possibility of hope, to Jack Alexander. It was witnessing old mates (as we say in Australia) or work buddies (fellow professionals) that Jack "knew" were "real alcoholics" (who he "knew" couldn't stop drinking)..it was witnessing the astonishing fact that they had stopped and were staying stopped that convinced Jack Alexander that this AA thing did in fact work.

As most or all of you know some 6000 enquiries to the fledgling fellowship of AA followed his Saturday Evening Post Article.

My take on that experience is that the key was not so much on what was said...but who was saying (and living) it. Hence the importance of effective PI and CPC work. I am sure we will do some great work together over the next few days and then carry that forward in the next 2 years till you meet again somewhere else in the world.

I am also certain that we will learn from each other and enjoy each other's company and for that I am truly grateful.

Thank you
John ■■■
2015 AOSM Chair

Keynote address

Presented by Kunal B [REDACTED]

Presentation 1 International Help Desk role in CPC/PI – GSO New York

11th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (A.O.S.M)

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

October 29 - November 1, 2015

Mary Cumings, International Desk, G.S.O. United States/Canada

How We Share Experience, Strength and Hope – The G.S.O. International Desk as a Resource

Good morning, my name is Mary and I am an alcoholic who found sobriety, freedom from alcohol, in A.A. I have the privilege of being the staff member on the International desk. This is my first, and, because of rotation at our office, probably my only, Asia Oceania Service Meeting. Thanks to you for allowing David and I to be here from the General Service Office for the United States and Canada; it is a privilege to be among such fine servants of Alcoholics Anonymous. I also want to thank the host committee for their hard work and the wonderful hospitality.

Members of our General Service Board, A.A. World Services and Grapevine Boards, as well as Staff and employees of G.S.O. and the Grapevine office extend deep gratitude to each of you for service dedicated to A.A.'s primary purpose—carrying our message to each alcoholic who seeks our help.

As members and representatives of A.A. in your countries, you inspire me and others to participate in sharing A.A.'s solution for the malady of alcoholism and to extend the hand of hope to the alcoholic who still suffers. Each of you is a leader in A.A. – your service and commitment to carrying the message through P.I. and C.P.C. efforts demonstrates the all-important attribute of vision that Bill writes about so eloquently in his essay, Leadership In A.A.: Ever A Vital Need in found in the chapter on Concept Nine in The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service (http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_bm-31.pdf) p.36-40.

We may be separated by country, culture or distance but alcoholism finds us regardless, and we, the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, are and should be unified in our message of recovery.

I have been asked to share how the G.S.O. United States and Canada and the International desk can be a resource to you in your Cooperation with the Professional Community and Public Information Twelfth Step efforts. On a personal note, like many A.A. members I owe a debt of gratitude to the A.A. member who carried the message of to the psychologist who referred me to A.A., coming to A.A. certainly wouldn't have occurred to me!

References throughout our A.A. literature underscore the importance of our relationships and interaction with these professionals. Our Fellowship might not exist were it not for the very first C.P.C. effort that resulted in that historic meeting of Bill W. and Dr. Bob. The origins of C.P.C. and P.I. are described in Chapter 11 of the Big Book, A Vision For You, where Bill, shares:

Bitterly discouraged, he found himself in a strange place, discredited and almost broke. Still physically weak, and sober but a few months, he saw his predicament was dangerous. He wanted to talk with someone, but whom?

One dismal afternoon he paced a hotel lobby wondering how his bill was to be paid. At one end of the room stood a glass covered directory of local churches. Down the lobby a door opened into an attractive bar. He could see the gay crowd inside. In there he would find companionship and release. Unless he took some drinks, he might not have the courage to scrape an acquaintance and would have a lonely weekend.

Of course he couldn't drink, but why not sit hopefully at a table, a bottle of ginger ale before him? After all, had he not been sober six months now? Perhaps he could handle, say three drinks-no more! Fear gripped him. He was on thin ice. Again it was the old insidious insanity-that first drink. With a shiver, he turned away and walked down the lobby to the church directory. Music and gay chatter still floated to him from the bar.

But what about his responsibilities-his family and the men who would die because they would not know how to get well, ah-yes those other alcoholics? There must be many such in this town. He would phone a clergyman. His sanity returned and he thanked god. Selecting a church at random from the directory, he stepped into a booth and lifted the receiver.

This was followed very shortly afterwards by Bill and Bob contacting Sister Ignatia at St. Thomas Hospital for permission to talk to a drunk, who turned out to be A.A. Number Three, Bill D., thus beginning the practice of cooperating with medical professionals. A short four years later the almost one hundred members published Alcoholics Anonymous, the first A.A. information available for the public.

Sales of the Big Book languished until the publication of the Jack Alexander article in the Saturday Evening Post in 1941 and many thousands of inquires arrived at the tiny A.A. office and A.A. began a period of rapid growth.

The Big Book contains many references, "The Doctors Opinion" and the Appendices "The Medical View on A.A.", "The Lasker Award" and "The Religious View On A.A." that show how we have learned much from each other and how these professionals have sent many members to us, giving us the opportunity to fulfill our primary purpose, to carry our message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

As A.A. grew our structure developed and in 1956 the Public Information Committee of the General Service Board was formed and established a clear policy for A.A. Public Information. Fourteen years later the General Service board spun off a separate Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee. While these committees are separate at the Board and Conference level in our structure at the district and area levels they are often combined.

In the book Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, our co-founder Bill W. speaks of how our A.A. Traditions "were beaten out on the anvils of group experience". Much of this experience was related to interaction with professionals. Lending the A.A. name to outside enterprises, judging the sincerity of an individual's desire to stop drinking, getting involved with problems other than alcohol or breaking our anonymity at the public level are still common temptations we often face when interacting with professionals. We are fortunate to have our A.A. Traditions to guide us in our work and must always be mindful of them as they are vital to our survival. Whenever possible, we must also educate our friends about our Traditions and why they are necessary and so important to us.

Over the years, our Conference has developed many pieces of literature that have proven to be useful helping professionals understand our program. We have also developed literature that helps members understand A.A. Traditions and that offers practical suggestions on how they can cooperate and inform professionals about A.A. We have collated this in a C.P.C. Kit that also includes a workbook which provides a wide array of details to help C.P.C. Committees and individual A.A.'s carry out this most important work.

Today www.aa.org is a major P.I. and C.P.C. tool as well as a resource for A.A. members. Almost all A.A. literature, audio and video P.S.A.s, videos, and service material published by A.A.W.S. is available on www.aa.org. I'd like to take a couple of minutes to demonstrate how to navigate the site. Every effort has been made to make the site intuitive and easy to use, with so much material sometimes members find it challenging to locate what they are looking for.

Now I'd like to show you some of the resources available on www.aa.org:

- For Professionals: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/information-for-professionals
 - C.P.C. Videos
 - [About A.A. Newsletter for Professionals: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/about-aa-newsletter-for-professionals](http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/about-aa-newsletter-for-professionals)
 - How to Find A.A. Near You: home page + http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/find-aa-resources
- For Members: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/information-for-aa-members
 - A.A. Group Life: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-group-life
 - A.A. Service Committees: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-service-committees
 - Public Information (P.I.): http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/public-information-committees
 - P.I. Kit List with links: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-65w_PI_Kit.pdf
 - Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.): http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/cooperation-with-the-professional-community-cpc-committees
 - C.P.C. Kit List with links: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-66w_CPC_Kit.pdf
 - G.S.O. Newsletters
 - About A.A. Newsletter for Professionals- searchable and indexed by topic: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/about-aa-newsletter-for-professionals
 - A.A. Literature - contains almost all A.A. literature published by A.A. World Services including Conference –approved books, pamphlets, as well as A.A. Guidelines and other Service Material: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-literature
 - Audios and Videos: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios
 - Anonymity video
 - Young People's Videos 5 videos including "Animations"
 - Public Service Announcements – video and audio
 - C.P.C. videos
 - Full length videos
 - Archives Audio Library

We are delighted to share the resources and experience, strength, and hope from the United States

and Canada, but please note that these have been developed for use in the U.S. and Canada and may not be appropriate for your country, language, culture. Often these are best used as inspiration to develop materials suited for your country's needs.

In the late 30s and early 40s, new A.A. groups and members had little guidance and so they turned to the address published in the big book for help. By mail the office relayed the experience of the older A.A. centers, and this service is still a major portion of the work of the staff members. The International desk is happy to respond to questions from around the world about P.I. and C.P.C. Our P.I. and C.P.C. desks maintain files of "shared experience" that we can access if you are looking for sample presentations, press releases, information on a wide variety of projects. Is available- mention PAT program.

We are often in contact with lone members who are looking for support and sharing on how to start an A.A. meeting in their location as well as A.A. in countries where groups are developing and needs for a service structure and literature are also emerging.

The International Desk maintains the International Directory, but we need your help to keep this information accurate and up to date. The desk also keeps country files with listing of confidential A.A. contacts; most often these are A.A. members however occasionally they include nonalcoholic friends of A.A. who are working to start A.A. in their city or village. We also include pertinent correspondence in these files. Files are also maintained on every international trip as well as Zonal Meetings.

Our General Service Office receives requests from to share information about A.A. at the International level. On Thursday four visitors from Kazakhstan came to our office to learn about A.A. This request came from the U.S. State Department. We also send representatives to international organizations such as the World Health Organization to share about A.A. and we frequently assist with C.P.C. and P.I. efforts when visiting other countries such as the press conference the local P.I. Committee here in Dubai arranged on Thursday morning. In some cases entire international trips have been focused on assisting with P.I. and C.P.C. efforts. One such trip in the last couple of years included twenty separate presentations given by our General Manager and the staff member on the International desk. The chair of our General Service Board as well as our trustees, both Class A and alcoholic, also participate in these efforts.

The International desk is also responsible for organizing the World Service Meeting every two years that serves as a forum for sharing the experience, strength, and hope of delegates who come from all parts of the world. It seeks ways and means of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers, in any nation, in any language. It can also represent the group conscience of A.A. worldwide. It encourages the planning of sound service structures and exploration of expanding A.A. services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, literature distribution, sponsorship, public information, community relations and institutions work. Planning has already begun for the 24th World Service Meeting which will take place October 23-27, 2016 in Rye Brook, New York.

Another aspect of "passing it on" through P.I. and C.P.C. is the practice of sharing experience both in writing as well as face-to-face with your successor so that important contacts and information about relationships with professionals, media etc. are not lost. At the G.S.O. we do this not only through the country files I told you about but also by preparing rotations notebooks that contain detailed information for our successor. Many A.A.'s in service in the U.S. and Canada also follow this practice of "passing it on" to the next trusted servant.

Our Twelfth Step-carrying the message - is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore A.A. is more than a set of principles; it

is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

In your P.I and C.P.C. efforts you are following in the footsteps of our co-founders, as Bill describes in "A Vision For You:"

Some day we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find a Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination. To some extent this is already true. Some of us are salesmen and go about. Little clusters of twos and threes and fives of us have sprung up in other communities, through contact with our two larger centers. Those of us who travel drop in as often as we can. This practice enables us to lend a hand, at the same time avoiding certain alluring distractions of the road, about which any traveling man can inform you.

Thus we grow. And so can you, though you be but one man with this book in your hand. We believe and hope it contains all you will need to begin.

We know what you are thinking. You are saying to yourself: "I'm jittery and alone. I couldn't do that." But you can. You forget that you have just now tapped a source of power much greater than yourself. To duplicate, with such backing, what we have accomplished is only a matter of willingness, patience and labor.

(Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 163)

A.A. is a gift to each of us and each of us is responsible for A.A.'s future. We represent those who have gone before, who so masterfully communicated their vision of recovery, unity and service. Let us have the humility and courage to enthusiastically communicate that vision in our ever expanding and complex world of today. Let us "pass it on."

Presentation 2 Publishing role in CPC/PI work – GSO New York

Presentation by David Rosen
11th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM)
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, October 31, 2015

David Rosen, G.S.O. / A.A.W.S., Inc. Presentation

Working Together With Able Helpers: A Brief Overview of A.A. Literature Translation & Licensing

Introduction

My name is David Rosen, and I am an alcoholic. And I am, as I've shared before to this group, in the business of words. And, I am grateful -- beyond words -- to have found sobriety and a spiritual design for living in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I am presenting today an overview of A.A. Translation & Licensing, in my capacity as the Licensing Manager at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York, the office which, as you know, serves A.A. groups in U.S. and Canada -- and helps to share A.A.'s message of recovery around the world. My particular department in the G.S.O. office in Manhattan shepherds international-language translations of A.A. literature through their necessary processes of translation-review, licensing and copyright -- which are very detail-oriented and often necessarily painstaking and time-consuming linguistic, editorial, and licensing undertakings from start to finish.

Each item of literature may originate as an "expressed need" voiced from a local A.A. group, or a request communicated to our office from a Literature Committee, service center or General Service Office. From these humble beginnings to their ultimate end result of reaching fruition, as a translated book, booklet, pamphlet, audiobook, or Video being distributed to a country's Fellowship, these projects may take months and months and sometimes, often, years of working together to complete. Time takes, time, as the folks who came before me in our Fellowship have taught me. Translations of A.A. literature, also, take time. As it says in the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.": (formerly titled "44 Questions"): "Most alcoholics don't like being told that they have to do anything ... for any extended period of time." (page 24)

Translations, indeed take extended care and diligent work, and time. Having myself worked for years and years and years -- a lot of time -- in the field of Publishing (in magazines, books, and websites) throughout my own professional career -- and being a self-described "book-lover," "voracious reader," and as is common in parlance right now: "a reading enthusiast," I have as long as I can remember been a person who found books to be my go-to source of solace, escape, adventure, and discovery of lives and places not my own. So, it is no exaggeration to note that my experiences in A.A. discovering and reading key books -- somewhat kicking and screaming as a newcomer in BB and 12 x 12 step meetings first, and then one-on-one with my sponsor and now, sponsees, -- all of these pursuits of reading, pondering, identifying, responding, discussing, and sharing (sometimes with lively disagreement and debate! -- have been and continue to be touchstones for my own personal journey of recovery from alcoholism. Such important and powerful books!

These books remain, our shared literature, and they stand the test of time, as veritable time capsules of how it works. Our responses to the books may change and grow. The Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, now in its Fourth English-language edition, with more than 35 million copies of English-language edition(s) sold, including the 2014 75th anniversary commemorative edition). The BB, the 12 x 12, Daily Reflections, and Came to Believe, in particular -- these books the hand of A.A. extended to me early on. These books and the folks who handed them to me conspired to save my life, and I know that. I'M HERE TODAY, AS A GRATEFUL BENEFICIARY of this wondrous spiritual program and all

of its activities of mind and spirit, this lifeline, this bridge back to life-- and this happy highway we are walking together to a better life.

All this and more – to be found in the pages of A.A. literature. The following quote, a favorite of my sponsor's, appears on the first page of the first personal story in the book *Came to Believe*. This sentence encapsulates and vividly describes exactly my experience:

"I was not only released from the compulsion to drink; I was guided toward a compulsion to live!"

A.A. literature affords all who seek it, want it, read it, and follow its suggestions this psychic change, this revolutionary fact and revelatory ah-ha moment, this profound, miraculous transformation.

Now that I am privileged to be able to work in the Publishing Department of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. at the General Service Office in New York, me!, who had downward-spiraled to being a nearly unemployable drunk – this is nothing short of miraculous.

Our Shared Mission: Also Revolutionary, Revelatory, Miraculous! Coming together here at the 11th Annual AOSM, as members and representatives of A.A. in your countries, you who are so focused in working to share A.A.'s profound spiritual message through our literature, you inspire me and my fellow Publishing Department colleagues at the New York G.S.O. office – as together we extend A.A.'s hand of hope to all who rely on it for their recovery and most significantly, to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Members of our General Service Board, A.A. World Services and Grapevine Boards, as well as Staff and employees of G.S.O. as well as the Grapevine office extend deep gratitude to each of you for your service dedicated to A.A.'s primary purpose— to stay sober and help other alcoholics recover, in all our work together carrying our message.

Here is a Snapshot of Current A.A. Translations – "A.A. Literature by the Numbers":

- There are 68 translations of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous ☐ 13 new translations pending, including the first-ever spoken-word First Nations' Navajo language BB.
- The most recent BB just printed is in Twi language, Ghana.
- A.A.W.S. prints the Big Book in 52 languages, with 35 printed by local service structures
- 53 countries' General Service Boards are licensed to print and/or distribute 1,710 publications in 53 languages
- A.A.W.S. has published literature in an additional 34 languages for a total of 87 languages. From Afrikaans, Arabic and Assamese to Bengali, Burmese Karin, Czech, German and Hungarian, to Lithuanian, Navajo-spoken language, Polish, Quebec-French sign language to Russian, Sinhala, Telugu and Thai – dozens and dozens of recent and ongoing projects are now in progress and moving forward around the world today.

A.A. Literature Shares the Fundamentals of How A.A. Works

As we know, A.A. literature in all its translations – books, booklets, pamphlets, and other published or recorded items at once serve to attract, guide, demonstrate and illuminate how A.A. works, urging along people like you and me to sobriety. A.A.'s beloved co-founder, Bill W., who often called the influence of A.A. literature "incalculable," wrote the following in May 1964: "Suppose, for instance, that during the last twenty-five years A.A. had never published any basic literature...no books, no pamphlets. We need little imagination to see that by now our message would be hopelessly garbled. Our relations with medicine and religion would have become a shamble. To alcoholics...we would today be a joke and the public would have thought us a riddle. Without its literature, A.A. would certainly have bogged down in a welter of controversy and disunity."

In the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous, as it is in the present, A.A.'s message of recovery from alcoholism was and is carried by one alcoholic talking to another – one member of A.A. helping another. And perhaps handing him or her a book?!

Since 1939 and the publication of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, our literature has indeed played an incalculable role in spreading A.A.'s message worldwide. Its influence defies calculation and being reduced to mere measurement. Translations of the original English texts has been pivotal in this worldwide, global, reach.

Our recent re-issue of the little booklet A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BIG BOOK, now in a new trilingual English / French and Spanish edition to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the BB, recounts how much Bill W. was keen on translations, as he specifically addressed this topic in A.A. Comes of Age [published in 1957].

Bill writes in one succinct, on-point declaration: “good translations of A.A. literature are ever more urgently needed. But able helpers have always turned up to meet the need.” I say: Amen! And I note: We are the able helpers of today! Recently I have located in our filing cabinets at G.S.O. New York copies of correspondence dating from the early 1950s between Bill W. and publishing folks interested in serving the A.A. fellowship in London, England regarding the first agreement to distribute A.A. literature abroad. It addresses the need for unity, and structure, efficient print costs, and proffers an evolving process and policy. The more things change, the more they stay the same!

Today, our Big Book is available in 69 languages, licensed to 53 countries, and an ever growing assortment of other A.A. books and pamphlets have been translated or are in progress. A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) holds more than 1,500 copyrights on A.A. literature, which includes the Big Book. Copyrights Are Held in Trust for A.A.'s Worldwide Fellowship as a Whole A.A. World Services, Inc. is the owner of the copyrights in most of the world on Bill W.'s writings, as well as copyrights on literature approved by the General Service Conference of the U.S. and Canada. The A.A.W.S. Board is responsible for licensing service structures outside of the U.S. and Canada, and for shepherding the reviewing and/or granting permission to translate and licensing or authorizing the rights publish A.A.-copyrighted material.

Publishing = translating, editing, proof-reading, formatting, printing, and distributing. Costs

Translations of A.A. literature are an essential service facilitated, in part, through the assistance of the International Literature Assistance Fund established by the World Service Meeting. Translations come about in two ways:

- Much more frequently, for the majority of projects: bilingual local members where A.A. has taken root begin translating A.A. materials such as the Preamble, The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and other recovery literature. Eventually, local A.A. groups and/or boards move on to larger projects, such as the Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
- Occasionally, professionals or A.A. groups in countries where A.A. is new ask that we translate a basic book or pamphlet for their use... The Essential Steps to Translation & Licensing Permission to Translate A.A.-copyrighted work

Before anyone—A.A. group, board or member—begins translating A.A.'s copyrighted literature, they must first request permission to translate by contacting the Licensing Manager, me!, in the publishing department in G.S.O., New York. On receipt of a request for permission to translate an A.A. title, our publishing department usually asks that a translation of the pamphlet or a few chapters of the book be submitted for review by our independent translation-evaluation service.

The proposed new translation is checked by professionals to assure clarity and adherence to the sense and spirit, tone and passion of the original English work. It is always best to follow this method before applying effort to a translation which may not be acceptable in the long run. Keep in mind that most often these translations are undertaken by non-professional A.A. members, volunteers!

Here are the key steps, agreement documents & licenses that follow:

- Permission to Translate A.A.-copyrighted work
- Assignment of Copyright – G.S.B. and/or Translator
- The review process happens next, with submissions getting reviewed by an independent translation-evaluation service, who compares the translations against the original English. Reports follow. If favorable, there most often are suggestions for improving and polishing the texts, which we pass on to the local entities working on the translation.
- License to Reproduce & Distribute Translated Copyrighted Work, granted to G.S.B.s, the “finish line”!
- Agreeing that final text is FINAL! Cause for celebration!
- Print Authorization for non-G.S.B.s – handled via a letter agreement
- G.S.B. or Literature Committee sends 3 copies of printed material to our office
- G.S.O. New York registers copyrights with the U.S. Library of Congress Copyright Office.

A Word on Translations

At times, it's difficult for A.A. members who read a translation in another language to accept some of the terms or words written that may seem outdated or irrelevant. Our General Service Conference, which represents the group conscience of A.A. in U.S. and Canada established the policy that the basic text of the Big Book, as well as the text of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions remain as written by Bill W. The policy governs our approach to each translation of Bill's works—we strive for each translation to reflect the original text as closely as possible.

We understand that translations are more an art than a science. Several translators may choose different words or terminology – for God or higher power, for example which are particularly sensitive and nuanced across cultures and languages -- to express the original concept, and each translator is convinced that his or her interpretation is most accurate. The final decision rests with the group conscience of A.A. in each country, often delegated to a Literature or Translations Committee. A.A.W.S. grants only one license per country or structure, and always abides by the Group Conscience. The need for a Literature Committee, and the imperative for Group Conscience agreeing that a particular translated text best represents the work and best suits their own Fellowship – are not to be underestimated.

One License, One Country

Also related to our shared goal, striving toward Unity. All translated editions of the Big Book must be approved by its county's unified General Service Conference. The goal is for one and the same translated text of Alcoholics Anonymous, of the Big Book, one reviewed by an independent translation-evaluation service and approved by that country's Literature Committee and service conference, one version per language to be read by our Fellowship in each given home country.

More on Licensing and Copyright – Preserving the Integrity of the Original Message

On the process of publishing (writing, revising, translating, printing and distributing) A.A. literature, I wish to again emphasize the importance placed on licensing and copyright protection of A.A. literature. As you may be aware, A.A. World Services, Inc. has been assigned the deep moral and spiritual responsibility for preserving and protecting our literature, per our Charter, which can be found in our Service Manual. A.A. literature carries the A.A. message – a message always freely given.

Infringement or misuse of our literature, even within the Fellowship, might lead to a great deal of confusion, or “garbling,” to use Bill Wilson’s word. Our efforts are oft-times laborious. Only when a translated text gains a positive independent translation-evaluation review may it moved forward. We try not to garble A.A.’s message. This is key particularly with our friends outside the Fellowship and more importantly with the newcomer; without care, our copyright interest might be diluted and the precious A.A. message of recovery might be distorted. For these reasons, A.A.W.S. through the G.S.O. has established procedures and time-honored policies for licensing and copyright protection of A.A. literature.

This is important: Our license to Reproduce & Distribute Translated Copyrighted Work for the A.A. book or pamphlet includes the exact wording to be used as the Copyright Notice -- to be printed in the new publication. This assures that all necessary permission requirements are in place and prevents problems with the Copyright protection afforded the translated A.A. book, pamphlet or other material. Over the years, A.A.W.S. has safeguarded A.A.'s copyrighted material to protect the integrity of the A.A. message. Since the time that service structures outside of Canada/U.S. were first licensed to publish copyrighted literature, the policy has been to grant exclusive license(s) to one established service entity per country or service structure. The policy is based on the need to insure accuracy of approved translations, and to assist newer General Service Structures to achieve unity and provide services to A.A. groups in their respective lands.

The policy of granting an exclusive license to one service entity/board/committee (the licensee) per structure or country authorizes the licensee to protect the copyright and license in their country. Prior to 1986 the licensing policy was less formal and occasionally inconsistent. Since that time our General Service Conference and the World Service Meeting have affirmed the policy on several occasions. It is critical that any board/office/committee intending to translate a copyrighted work provide completed forms to A.A.W.S., Inc. in care of our publishing department.

Term of License

A License to Reproduce & Distribute Translated Copyrighted Work is good for ten years, after which a new agreement needs to be executed. Additionally, a license agreement needs to be renewed each time an approved translation is updated, revised or reprinted. The copyright notice contained in reprints or revised translations should contain the date of the original copyright rather than the date of reprint or revision. Assuring that these agreements are in order is critical to protect the integrity of the A.A. message, and to the development of A.A. structures in unity.

We are available to assist you with these procedures, and encourage everyone contemplating or working on translations of A.A. literature to contact our publishing department, which acts as agent for A.A.W.S. We ask current license holders to appraise us of all changes and/or reprints as each change needs to be filed on our behalf. Updated registrations also need to be filed in your country.

Currently our International Translations Coordinator Rosa Rodriquez, with whom many of you have worked, and I are undertaking an extensive inventory of licenses, A – Z, and issuing appropriate renewals as appropriate as we work together to insure our licensing agreements are all in order, and in place.

Licenses to Post A.A. material on Websites

Recently, A.A.W.S. began granting permission to General Service Offices and other A.A. Service entities the opportunity to post translated literature on their Websites, with the exception of English, French and Spanish titles, which we post, and to which others may link. Each translation must be licensed for posting on the World Wide Web; we cannot grant broad or unlimited permission.

Conclusion

Our most-recent completed new translation of the BB The Twi translation in the country of Ghana stands out. It was completed, after 9 years of diligent work, which included 3 translators (who each contributed impeccable translations that received highly favorable translation-evaluations from independent services. Finally, a team of local women hand-sewed the bindings and covers on the books, and more than 1,000 copies are now making their way into meetings there. All this, made possible only with the hand of A.A. being extended, by teams of local able helpers in Ghana and a little help from their Fellowship in our New York office.

As we work together, We the Able Helpers ... with all Our Teams of Able Helpers! -- we come together in the spirit of love and service to protect the integrity of A.A.'s message in print and to preserve the Unity of our beloved Fellowship and share the profound message of hope that Alcoholics Anonymous brings to the sick and suffering all over this great world.

With gratitude, and more gratitude,

David [REDACTED]

Licensing Manager, Publishing Department

A.A.W.S., Inc. - GSO New York Office

Secretary's Report

Welcome to the 11th AOSM. I am your secretary (2011 – 2015) and I have appreciated the opportunity to serve over the last four years. I'd like to thank John for his support as Chair of the AOSM, David G from New Zealand the AOSM Treasurer and a number of the past and current delegates to the 10th and 11th AOSM who it has been my pleasure to meet and work with.

I'd also like to mention Shirley C from Australia (the previous AOSM secretary) who's wisdom, knowledge, experience and continuing support and handover contributed to making this role so enjoyable over the last four years.

Like John, I applaud Kunal, Tony, Ann and their committee's organisational efforts they have applied to get us all here today for this 11th AOSM in Dubai. It is not an easy task organising such an event remotely and dealing with so many different people from different cultures and lands and different languages.

As a past AOSM delegate and lately the secretary I have enjoyed watching the growth of the AOSM over the past eight years of my involvement (I attended as a World Service Delegate to the 7th AOSM in Japan in 2007 and the 8th AOSM in Bangkok in 2009). I am always astounded by the dedication, hard work, passion and care that our delegates bring to their roles.

Since we last met in 2013 in Irkutsk in Russia I have had correspondence with a number of delegates, John the Chairperson, David G the AOSM Treasurer, our Webmaster Steve T has been very helpful as have the organising 11th AOSM organising committee here in Dubai. Four six monthly updates have been developed and disseminated to delegates and interested parties and are available on our website. The updates are a great communication tool keeping us in touch with each other in the time between AOSMs. I have sent emails welcoming individual delegates to their new role and corresponded with a number of countries exploring their attendance or participation in the AOSM. We have the pleasure of welcoming Bangladesh and Iran both to the AOSM for the first time. Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines were all other countries who expressed interest in the AOSM and the potential for attending but the correspondence has not resulted in any of those countries being here today. We hope to see them in the future and I hope we have a fruitful and fulfilling four days as we learn and explore together.

Brenda H. [REDACTED]
AOSM Secretary 2011 – 2015

Treasurer's Report

The finances of the AOSM from February 2014 to October 2015

Open Balance \$ 8694.84

Total income \$3709

With interest \$147

Total expenses \$7160

Closing Balance \$5390.58

Note; the two Donations in the 2nd & 3rd lines, have the same Refer 14062. Which would suggest they are from the same place? That place or country is not clear as it does not make reference to a country. It would be helpful to do so in future. Example NZ or Japan as in others.

					OPEN	8,694.84		
date	type	who	code	code2	amount	Balance	Row Labels	Sum of amount
28/02/2014	Credit Interest Paid	Credit Interest Paid		Interest	30.11	8,724.95	B E Hamblyn	-\$4,172.00
24/04/2014	Telegraphic Transfer	Michael William Ridg	Refer: 14042	Donation	125.00	8,849.95	Accomadation	-\$1,652.00
25/06/2014	Telegraphic Transfer	General Service Boar	Refer: 14062	Donation	2,052.60	10,902.55	Printing	-\$313.00
29/08/2014	Credit Interest Paid	Credit Interest Paid		Interest	35.74	10,938.29	Travel	-\$2,207.00
20/10/2014	Direct Credit	NZ Gen Serv Office	Nzgso Of Aa	Donation	500.00	11,438.29	John Loty	-\$2,987.63
29/12/2014	Telegraphic Transfer	Npo Aa Japan General	Refer: 14122	Donation	1,031.03	12,469.32	Accomadation	-\$1,257.26
27/02/2015	Credit Interest Paid	Credit Interest Paid		Interest	43.54	12,512.86	Travel	-\$1,730.37
22/04/2015	Payment	B E Hamblyn	Secretary	Travel	-2,207.00	10,305.86	Michael William Ridg	\$125.00
5/05/2015	Debit	John Loty	Im0000324132	Travel	-1,687.91	8,617.95	Donation	\$125.00
5/05/2015	Overseas Bank Chg	John Loty	Overseas Bank Charge	Travel	-24.46	8,593.49	Credit Interest Paid	\$146.74
5/05/2015	IMT Fee	John Loty	IMT Fee	Travel	-18.00	8,575.49	Interest	\$146.74
31/08/2015	Credit Interest Paid	Credit Interest Paid		Interest	37.35	8,612.84	NZ Gen Serv Office	\$500.00
11/09/2015	Payment	B E Hamblyn	Secretary	Accomadation	-1,157.00	7,455.84	Donation	\$500.00
1/10/2015	Payment	B E Hamblyn	Secretary	Accomadation	-495.00	6,960.84	Npo Aa Japan General	\$1,031.03
1/10/2015	Payment	B E Hamblyn	Secretary	Printing	-313.00	6,647.84	Donation	\$1,031.03
22/10/2015	Overseas Bank Chg	John Loty	Overseas Bank Charge	Accomadation	-26.75	6,621.09	General Service Boar	\$2,052.60
22/10/2015	IMT Fee	John Loty	IMT Fee	Accomadation	-18.00	6,603.09	Donation	\$2,052.60
22/10/2015	Debit	John Loty	Im0000422691	Accomadation	-1,212.51	5,390.58	Grand Total	-\$3,304.26
					Deposits:	\$3,855.37		
					Withdrawals:	\$7,159.63		
					Difference:	-\$3,304.26		

Regards

David [REDACTED]

, AOSM Treasurer

Section 3 – AOSM Business

Countries and delegates attending the 11th AOSM

Australia – Sharon [REDACTED] 2nd term), Tony [REDACTED] 1st Term) (1st term)
Bangladesh – Simon D [REDACTED] (1st term)
Hong Kong – Joann [REDACTED] 2nd term), Jenny [REDACTED] (2nd term)
India – Donald [REDACTED] 2nd term), Sh [REDACTED] (1st term)
Indonesia – Lind H [REDACTED] (1st term)
Iran – Al [REDACTED]
Japan – Noriaki [REDACTED] (1st term)
MERCAA – Tony [REDACTED] 2nd term), Jane [REDACTED] (1st term (Ann [REDACTED] filled in)) (2
Mongolia – Munkhtuvshin [REDACTED] 2nd term)
New Zealand – Stevan [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (1st term) (2nd term)
Russia – Nina [REDACTED] (1st term)
Sri Lanka – Jeremy [REDACTED] (1st term)
Thailand – Bob M [REDACTED], Jerry [REDACTED] (1st term) 2nd term) on

Committees for the 11th AOSM 2015

Agenda/Site Selection

Chairperson: Joann [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate (Hong Kong)
Bob M [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate (Thailand)
Ton [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Australia)
Lind H [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Indonesia)
Jere [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Sri Lanka)

Policy/Admissions/Finance

Chairperson: Tony [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate (MERCAA)
Heather [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (New Zealand)
Sh [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (India)
Sharon [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate (Australia)
Jenny [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Hong Kong)

Literature & Publishing

Chairperson: Don [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate (India)
Noriaki [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Japan)
Munkhtuvshin [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate, (Mongolia)
[REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Iran)
Jan [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (MERCAA)

Working With Others

Chairperson: Steve [REDACTED] 2nd Term Delegate (New Zealand) h,
Je [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Thailand)
Nina [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Russia)
Imtiaz M [REDACTED] 1st Term Delegate (Bangladesh)

Section 4 – Country Reports

Australia

Structure:

The Conference Structure of AA in Australia is based on the US/Canada format. Australia was the second country outside the North American continent to accept AA. This year Australia celebrated 70 years of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There are about 1900 groups in Australia with approx. 18,000 members. We seem to have stagnated in the last 10 years.

We have a General Service Board with 13 Trustees. This is made up of 6 Regional Trustees, 2 General Service Trustees, 4 non-alcoholic Trustees and a Trustee Emeritus. The Class B Trustees serve a term of 4 years and the non-alcoholic Class A Trustees serve a term of 5 years.

There are 6 Regions in Australia and 21 Areas served by the Area Delegates., and 2 World Service Delegates. These meet with the Board each November at our General Service Conference. Delegates serve for a term of 3 years, & World Service Delegates serve for 4 years.

Our 2 World Service Delegates, attend the World Service Meetings and the Asia – Oceania Service Meetings. A new Delegate is elected each 2 years and this provides an opportunity for the current Delegate to mentor the incoming Delegate.

Australia also has National Coordinators for Public Information, Remote Communities, Correctional Facilities and Treatment Facilities. They serve a 4-year term to offer continuity with the Professional Community. The current PI Coordinator also produces a newsletter “PI Patter” with the recurring theme “Communication + Willingness + Action = Results.”

We hold a biennial Public Information Forum and a biennial Treatment and Correctional Facilities Forum. The National Public Information Forum is being held this September on Queensland ‘s beautiful Gold Coast

Australia also has many CSO’s and Intergroups to look after 12 step calls and the distribution of literature. These centres use our National 1300 number for local 12-step work

Literature:

To commemorate 70 years Australia launched its own Big Book with stories from Australian members. The first 164 pages remain unchanged. The dust jacket has been changed to green and yellow to represent the colours of Australia. It took over 7 years to produce and to date 40,000 copies have been sold. Another initiative was to produce a history book of AA in Australia: “One to Another”. This was finished in 2014 and took about 10 years to gather all the information. The General Service Office publishes a Newsletter for Professionals twice yearly and a general newsletter for members called AA Around Australia.

Board Initiative:

This year the General Service Board has undertaken to visit all Areas within Australia. The Purpose is to encourage participation and to show how our General Service Structure works in helping the sick alcoholic. The team is comprised of the Chairman of the Board, a Regional Trustee, a World Service Delegate, one of the National Coordinators and a member of the office staff. We have a fun interactive role play, a presentation from each of the participants, and a question & answer session.

Remote Communities:

The aim of this committee is to reach out to the people who are isolated by geography, language or physical impairment.

Various "Tag Alongs" with groups of enthusiastic travellers with their cars packed with literature have occurred in remote Australian Communities around Queensland and Victoria and Western Australia. The members distribute literature to local organisations; hold Public Information meetings and AA meetings. Some of the locations are more than 10 hours from a capital city.

This does not go unnoticed in these small communities. In one remote community the owner of a local café was so impressed by the AA members who came into her establishment that she wanted to find out more about Alcoholics Anonymous. She asked if she could attend the AA meeting. She has relatives who may have a problem with alcohol.

We have a greater challenge with our Indigenous communities, where alcohol abuse is a major concern. There are approximately 27 different languages spoken and 150 dialects. We need to ascertain the best way to reach our isolated and remote communities whilst being mindful of cultural differences.

There were two Indigenous conventions about 8 years ago, however sadly the member who was the enthusiastic force behind these passed away and they did not continue.

We would like to thank Eva Sanchez from World Services.

This year at the International Convention in Atlanta at the opening meeting, Roy an indigenous member from Australia was invited to share. As a result of that invitation and event in his life Roy has said that he is going to try to revive the convention and work closely with his brothers. Roy's attendance has resulted in positive consequences for Australia. We are so glad that you found him!

Deaf Community:

Some years ago our then Delegate Kevin H attended the World service meeting and heard about the work being done with the deaf community. He brought that idea back to Australia. At that time it was felt the need wasn't there, but as time progressed, we discovered there was a need. Kevin was instrumental in getting approval from New York for the translation and went on to produce a DVD in Auslan.(Australian Sign Language) However passing the message to the deaf community presented its own challenges - one being denial and the other that we wanted something from them. Our current National Pi Coordinator decided to reach out. Leigh and another member Frank O set up meetings with a counselor. She works with the deaf community who had problems with alcohol. Leigh and Frank explained what AA was and what it wasn't. They asked if Alcoholics Anonymous

could be of assistance? How can we help you? Leigh set up a secret Facebook group so they could communicate. A group in Melbourne offered to sponsor any member from the deaf community as they were situated around the corner from the deaf society. As they gained trust and the walls of denial came away, they decided to take a member to this meeting with a translator. Nothing was said to anyone at the meeting and the deaf member was able to sit and enjoy without feeling different. The seed has been planted and is starting to grow.

Reaching Out: Solomon Islands:

Australia has been working with members in the Solomon Islands to help sustain AA in that country. To help them celebrate their 2nd Anniversary and start Al-Anon in the Solomon's, For the first two years there was only one 12 Step meeting on the Island. As a result of this visit, there is now a separate meeting for the AA members and one for the Al-Anon members. This is very appropriate and was also necessary for future growth there.

One of the challenges and practicalities with a new fellowship is sustaining the momentum: An Area in Queensland has been actively involved in helping the Solomon Islands and largely responsible for financially sponsoring 2 members from the Solomon's to attend our National Public Information Forum in September 2015. As they are now starting to do their own Public Information and cooperation with the Professional Community, it is very important that as a Fellowship they learn how to do this whilst maintaining anonymity at the level of press radio and TV, - also passing the AA message- not their own.

Each member has a copy of the Big Book and the 12x12. The banners have been translated into Pidgin. Steve T who is the AOSM Webmaster has offered to do a website for them. Progress is slow, but steady.

Chuuk:

We received a call for help in the Micronesian Island of Chuuk (Truk)

Chuuk is East of Guam, south west of the Marshall Islands and 1800 kms north of Papua New Guinea. I am extremely thankful that I was able to locate someone close at hand. I looked through the AOSM directory for members who may be close by. I emailed a few members whom I thought might be able to offer assistance. We eventually found someone in Chuuk who went to Guam to attend meetings. I am very thankful that the information in the AOSM Directory was available.

Fiji:

Next Easter, 24th-27th March 2016 at the request of Fiji, Australia will be hosting an Australasian Convention in Suva, as part of our obligation to carry the message in the Asia Oceania Region .The Thursday will be a Public Information event for members of the professional and community leaders in Fiji. The other days will be the usual AA program where any local Fijian is invited to attend free of charge. Suva was chosen as this is where the Government and Health Workers are located.

As a background to this, the following occurred:

Eighteen months ago at the annual General Practitioners Convention held in Melbourne, two doctors from just outside Suva Fiji came to us and said they wished AA was available in Fiji

because the alcohol problem was very serious. The members who were manning the table of AA literature were pleased to advise the Doctors that AA would be having its first ever Convention outside Australia in 2016 and it would be in Suva. The Doctors were ecstatic. The AA members were also able to tell the two Doctors that AA was indeed in Fiji, but very small at the moment. AA contact details for Suva, were passed on also. The Doctor's returned the next day and thanked the two members.

The Doctors said that this meeting in Melbourne was indeed arranged by a higher power!
The website details are www.aanatcon.org.au. The email address is: fijicon2016@aa.org.au.

In love and Service

Sharon [REDACTED]
Tony [REDACTED]

2nd Term Wor

Hong Kong

Hong Kong is grateful for the opportunity to participate again in the AOSM. The message of A.A. arrived in Hong Kong 45 years ago, on 2nd September 1969. As the fellowship first developed it was initially supported by a Briton, an American, a Pakistani and a Cantonese speaking Irish-American. This reflects the diversity of A.A. we still see in Hong Kong today.

In 1997, the former British Colony became The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China. The HKSAR will continue under the "One Country, Two Systems" policy until 2047. This gives Hong Kong a unique opportunity to cooperate with the growing AA fellowship in the neighbouring People's Republic of China.

Hong Kong is one of the smallest fellowships in the A.A. world family – Hong Kong has eleven autonomous groups that hold thirty-six meetings each week. We estimate our membership at around 150 members. Groups include two women's groups, and three meetings weekly in Cantonese. The community's efforts to build service structure are seeing positive outcomes – we now have a well-established Public Information Committee, Website Committee, Convention Committee and an International Service Committee as part of the Hong Kong service structure.

The HK International Convention takes place annually (this year on 7-8th November 2015), and is a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends from around the region. Mandarin and Cantonese translation are provided for convention meetings and workshops, to facilitate this connection. Through the Hong Kong Intergroup we have supplied Simplified and Traditional Chinese literature into Southern China. Wherever helpful we will continue to liaise with the fellowships across the border where obtaining literature can be logistically difficult due to government constraints. Hong Kong A.A. continues to foster friendship and visits with members in Beijing and Shanghai, and maintains contact with Loners and Southern China groups in Guangzhou, Macau and Zhuhai.

Our Public Information Committee has been working in 2014-15 to carry the message to the Professional Community in Hong Kong, reaching out to both English and Cantonese speaking professionals. With the help of a bilingual Psychiatrist who is familiar with AA, we were able to set up a bilingual information session with the Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Treatment Service Group of Tung Wah Hospitals to educate over 20 professionals about how AA can help the still suffering alcoholic in the local community. We also continue to carry the message in schools while cooperating with a local NGO, and have seen strong participation from the fellowship.

In these past two years the HK fellowship has also helped to co-ordinate two trips in 2014 & July 2015 to the fellowship in Ulan Bataar, Mongolia. These July visits involved coordinated efforts of members from Hong Kong and Australia to facilitate Step, Traditions and Sponsorship Workshops. The AOSM delegates from Hong Kong and Australia also had the opportunity to meet with the A.A. Mongolia board, and discussed current translation projects. It was a wonderful example of how AOSM can facilitate "carrying the message across borders", as discussed at the 10th AOSM. Another big event for us in 2014 was that sponsorship by Sweden made it possible for Hong Kong to participate in the WSM for the first time. The Hong Kong fellowship was very grateful for Sweden's support. Our knowledge and connection with the greater AA community continues to strengthen and grow, to the enormous benefit of our small but enthusiastic AA community.

India

Fellowship of AA in India is in its 58th year. It has been a long way with vivid culture, different languages and uneven growth of AA nationally.

Out of approximately 1,700 groups West and South India has about 1,300 groups and North and East has about 400 groups. We have very minimal presence in North-east region of India

Our General Service Office is located in Mumbai and managed by four Working Trustees: Chairman, Chairman-Public Information, Treasurer and Secretary. A General Manager and three assistants manage the office.

General Service Board has 8 class A non alcoholic trustees and 16 class B trustees. Out of 16 class B trustees, 4 trustees serve as working trustees namely Chairman, Chairman – Public Information, Treasurer and General Secretary. They shoulder responsibility of General Service Office.

The Working Trustees including the Chairman of the Board are Class-B trustees. 62 delegates represent all parts of country. We have had 45 Conferences so far. We still have only three states having District Committees and Area Assemblies even though adopted by the Conference in 2004; however, recently in few regions too implementations started. Group services are largely provided through 75 Service entities including Inter-Groups, District Committees, Area Committees, Area Assemblies and State Committees across the country.

We translate, publish and distribute A. A. books and pamphlets in 15 languages. 'The Twelfth Step' magazine is published monthly. Apart from National magazine periodicals are published in regionally by regional fellowships. Newsletter is published periodically from GSO India.

Trustee Committee for Charter & Reports has undertaken an uphill task of updating of Charter and Byelaws and by 2015 GSC it will submit final draft of revised Charter and Byelaws

We are witnessing an exciting and phenomenal period of growth. Across the length and breadth of the country, AA as a resource is becoming known and accepted at various public and private levels.

Cooperation with Government agencies:

Defence

In 2010 AA was invited at PSYCON (conference of psychiatrists attached to hospitals for Armed Forces). As per last information received more than 10 AA meetings are held weekly at base stations of Air Force. Because of security reasons entries to participants are restricted. Para-military forces (SSB, CISF, CRPF, BSF) keep on inviting AA for awareness sessions.

Railways

Indian Railways is the largest employer in the country. Following the permission from Rail Board to conduct awareness sessions, in many Rail workshops, schools and hospitals interactive sessions were held by AA members. In many railway premises, AA meetings are held.

Govt Hospitals

Health department of Central Government has issued permission to conduct Awareness sessions and put up informative boards, banners in all Government run hospitals.

Treatment Facilities

Now a days many members from Treatment Facilities are coming to AA. TF committee is exploring many ways to bridge the gap.

Media

Another great friend of AA is the media. The print and electronic media have accepted us and are always receptive to our need. Newspapers have been particularly cooperative with us by highlighting various facets of our program and carrying stories of recovering alcoholics in series of articles as and when the need arises.

Conventions

Annually, conventions are held by Manali, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka etc. This year North-east region held convention in Shillong. Fellowship is going to have national convention in 2016.

PI Conference

Fellowship will have its 3rd PI Conference in Kolkata during October 2-4, 2015.

Reaching Where A.A. is not there

In the year 2010, efforts were started for carrying the message to alcoholics in areas where A.A. does not exist. Towns were selected on the basis of population, local recoveries – either migrated from other areas or discharged from Treatment Facilities, Number of Rehabs, support available from nearby existing fellowship. Since, then towns like Ujjain, Lucknow, Rajkot, Indore and Roorki, Chattisgarh, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Kanpur, Washim, have been covered and A. A. meetings have been started.

Challenges:

Perhaps the greatest challenges facing A.A. in India are the social stigma surrounding alcoholism and the concept of woman alcoholics. Due to changing social conditions there is a stiff increase in number of women alcoholic in India and women from all strata of society are falling prey to the alcoholism. At present there are only five women's groups in India and it remains a major worry for fellowship to approach them with the message.

Following visit of AA Women with initiative from AOSM, there was sudden impact on fellowship and many women had come forward, But reasons best known to them again there is apathy in suffering women to come forward and seek help.

India is seen by its neighbouring countries as an A.A. resource. We sincerely want to be of help to China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, etc. We are trying to assist them with our experience in translation of literature in local languages, We do extend invitation to attend our GSC.

The major challenge still remains of reaching the Northern and Eastern states where 65% of the population resides and the fellowship has virtually no existence. Many alcoholic still die for want of message. With the collective efforts we are sure that fellowship will reach those areas.

Thank you,

Yours in AA service

Shaji.M.M, 1st term delegate AOSM (Regional Class B trustee GSB India)

Indonesia

Greetings from AA Bali! As the AOSM representative for Bali until delegates are voted in, I am submitting this report, in collaboration with members of the Bali AA Intergroup. Bali Intergroup members are currently in the process of asking for their home groups to nominate potential AOSM delegates with the voting process to follow in due course. Meanwhile, Bali will not be represented at the upcoming AOSM in Dubai at the end of October 2015, due to financial constraints. We are not aware of any AOSM activity from other areas of Indonesia at this point in time.

Furthermore, the Bali Intergroup, subject to approval from the home groups, is intending to focus on producing a Bahasa translation of the Big Book subject to GSO approval and to carry the message within the island of Bali and to other areas in Indonesia.

Currently in Bali there are 33 AA meetings a week in seven locations: Seminyak (Legian), Ubud, Sanur, Nusa Dua, Ungasan (Bukit), Lovina and Kerobokan Prison.

<http://www.aa-bali.org/meetings/>



During the past two years since the last convening of AOSM, Bali AA has continued to host the annual Bali International Roundup. This year the Roundup “Rocketed into the Fourth Dimension” was attended by almost 600 participants. Other activities include Twelve Step & Twelve Traditions workshops and supporting meetings in Kerobokan Prison and at twelve-step based rehabilitation centres.

Iran

Iran's country report to AOSM 2015

We the Iranian AA's have multiplied in numbers to more than 12000 members, during the last 17 years.

Our fellowship consists of more than 350 groups in eight regions. The meetings in Iran are mostly for men only, some are mixed and nine meetings are for women only. We still have a very hard time convincing the officials and the public that alcoholism is a disease. In order to have indoor regular meetings we have to register Alcoholic Anonymous as a None Government Organization (NGO) but we face a lot of resistance from the government officials and strict religious laws. That is the main reason most of our meetings are held in open spaces and parks in cold and hot weather as well.

In 1993 the Persian translation of the Big Book was approved by the A.A.W.S. Inc. we have been communicating with the New York office during the last four years and as a result the translation of the living sober and the 12 and 12 have been approved and we are publishing these books as we speak.

The biggest problem we have in Iran is that we have the Iranian A A which I represent and we also have the Khorasan A A's (Khorasan is a province in north east of Iran). We have tried to live together but they have taken our treasure money and our literature more than once during the last seven years and we have had to start all over again and again!!! Some of us would like to call that highway robbery. I have personally been bitten and gagged by one of these nice fellows. We talk the talk about the three legacies but we have a hard time walking the walk.

We are strongly in need of old timers within the A A service structure to come to Iran and hold some workshops. We do need all the help we can get from anywhere and anyone.

We have leased a small office space for our General Service Office for distribution of our literature and to answer phone calls. Our G.S.O. maintains an official A A website at the domain of www.iranaa.org and the email address is iranaa0@gmail.com

The Iran's G.S.O. address is ; **number 106 Shalchi street**

Fahmideh Blvd.

Postal code 31356-94915

Karaj / Iran

Telephone number; 009826 327 33069

Fax number; 009826 327 31137

AI

Iran's first term delegate

Japan

Size and growth rate

A.A. is gradually growing in Japan. As of 2015, A.A. in Japan has more than 600 groups in seven areas and approximately 5,700 members.

We held the AA Japan 40th anniversary convention in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture in February this year. More than 2,000 people participated in this meeting.

Japan GSO

In 1981 the Japan General Service Office, known as JSO, was established in Tokyo. At first it was the only A.A. office, so it also functioned as the central office for the Kanto - Koshinetsu Area (Tokyo and nearby prefectures).

In 1993 a Central Office for the Kanto area was established. Now all seven areas of Japan have their own central offices. JSO mainly serves our general service needs, while the local central offices take care of the local needs. All the JSO staff is paid; we have three full-time workers and two part-time workers. Of the full-time employees, one is the general manager, one is in charge of group services and the third one handles publications and international affairs.

Finance

More than 60% of the income depends on selling literature and monthly magazine. Contributions account for less than 40% of the organization's income. The organization is actively seeking new contributions through its forum. We are also attempting to reduce our expenses.

Internet

The Public Relations and Medical Institutions Committee of the General Service Board is responsible for the Japanese version of our Homepage. This includes updating the homepage, and also links to the homepage of English-speaking groups in Japan. An English-language version of the homepage will be created for the foreign national residents in Japan and/or tourists. By now, there have been more than 840,000 people have accessed the site and at present, there is an average of several hundred people per day.

Many newcomers find out about A.A. via the Internet. All central offices have their own homepage and they provide such valuable information as meetings lists and a calendar of events. You can find their meeting lists on JSO's regularly updated website: www.aajapan.org.

Literature

The sale of literature is our main source of income. As mentioned before, about 60% of income is derived from the sales of literature and monthly magazine, whereas only 40% comes from contributions.

Formerly, it was the policy of JSO's Literature Department to translate and publish every item of U.S./Canada Conference-approved A.A. literature; however, we have realized that there are some publications that are not necessarily compatible with AA Japan. At our General Service Conference, we changed our policy to a more selective one, so that some of the literature will not be translated.

Our monthly magazine, Box 916, is a “meeting-in-print” magazine, just like the AA Grapevine. Of the 3,400 copies issued, 2,700 copies go to members and the others are distributed to friends of A.A. About 30% of our annual income comes from the sale of this magazine.

2,700 copies of our newsletter from JSO and the General Service Board are issued every other month. One copy per group is free of charge and we charge 70 yen for any additional copies ordered. 2,300 copies are distributed for members individually, and 400 copies are distributed for friends of A.A.

Last year, we published a new book titled " The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA " . AA Japan publisher believes that a variety of experience listed in this book will help the survival and development and integrity of the AA group and the recovery of AA members each.

Problem

General Services Structure of Japan was established 20 years after the start of Japanese-speaking meetings in Japan. Many members enthusiastically attend our annual Conference, we continue to challenge various problems in order to achieve AA’s primary purpose.

One big problem that we are have is that the number of members does not increase. When we look at the membership survey that was conducted several times so far, it is clear that a lot of people who have alcohol problems have come to AA. However, these people do not stick with AA.

We are always carrying the message to hospitals, holding public information forums, and especially in recent years, are actively carrying the message to the Correctional facilities. As a result of these activities, new people are showing interest and are coming to AA, but why don’t they stay on with the AA program?

To solve this problem, they key might be in how to use the three legacies of AA.

AA members of our early days in Japan, desperate to survive themselves, studied our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, and have been hard trying to use them in their own way of life.

Nihon no sōsō-ki no AA menbā-tachi wa, jibun-tachi ga ikinokotte ku tame ni hisshide, suteppu mo dentō mo gainen mo gakushū shi, issōkenmei jibun-tachi no ikikata no naka de tsukaou to shite kita. Shibaraku tatte Nihon no AA ga seichō shi, aruteido mītingu kaijō no kazu mo fue, AA no tekisuto no hon'yaku mo susumi, kyōdōtai no katachi ga totonotte kita koro ni, naze ka suteppu, dentō no jūbun'na nobe tsutae to jissen o suru koto o wasurete shimatta node wanaidarou ka. Tashika ni, watashitachiha mītingu ni tōtte iruto sake wa nomanai kamo shirenai, shikashi, AA no puroguramu wa atarashī ikikata o suru kotoda to iu koto o, umaku tsutaeru koto ga dekinakatta. Gen'in no hitotsu ni suponsāshipu no tsukaikata ga aru yōda. Issho ni puroguramu o jissen shi, tomoni atarashī ikikata o kangaeru to iu genri ga, umaku kinō shinakatta.

もしかして: We held the AA Japan 40th anniversary meeting in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture in February this year. There were members, Alanon Families, Professionals and lot of AA friends. There participated more than 2,000 people in this meeting.

As Japanese AA continued to grow, there was also an increasing number of meeting venues, the translation of the AA text also proceed, and the fellowship really began to take shape. However, I think that we have forgotten how to pass along sufficiently the experience of the Steps and Traditions to the next generation. Sure, we might not drink liquor when we continue to go to meetings. However, the notion that the AA program equates a new way of living has not been conveyed well. How to use the sponsorship seems to one of the causes. The principle that we work this Program together, and its incorporation into this new way of living, is not functioning well. Over a long period of time, the number of members actively involved in AA service has declined, and a number of AA groups and Districts and Areas where that foundation principle of "Rotation" does not function, has surfaced. It has become more difficult to find opportunities to share our experiences and show newcomers how to grow with the Program.

I'm very worried that the charm and the attraction to the AA program has been lost. Certainly, it seems our fellowship has a structure, and AA's presence is known by a number of professional and related organizations. Of course, we have also increased the number of great "Friends of AA."

But in order to have a charm that attracts new members to AA, we must recognize that we use this Program to change our lives not for myself, but so that we can have the pride and spirit of being able to do something for others rather than just for myself.

Now, this is the problem that I believe Japan is currently struggling with. Please understand that this is not an official opinion, but it is only my personal thoughts.

1st term Delegate of Japan



Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA)

Salaam alaikum from MERCAA

Our report covers updates of AA activities and development in our member countries from 2013-2015.

UAE (United Arab Emirates)

The Abu Dhabi Emirates (Abu Dhabi and Al Ain) hosted the 13th Annual MERCAA Convention in November of 2014. We had 7 member countries attending, representing over 30 countries worldwide. The effect of Alcoholics Anonymous on the International setting is truly represented by the fellowship in the UAE and MERCAA.

The convention theme was 'Unity' and centered on the Official launch of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, (64th official Translation of the Big Book from World Services.) We had two of the three members whose story is included in the Arabic edition, plus an array of other Arabic members speaking in the convention, both in English and Arabic. The highlight of the convention may have been MS ---'s story (from Iran) about her struggles both culturally, religiously and gender wise to find and stay in the rooms of AA. We are indeed "roomy, and all inclusive" once the doors are found. Abu Dhabi recently formed the "Abu Dhabi Intergroup." This is a testimony of the growth and representation of the fellowship growing and reaching further into the communities we are serving. The number and size of meetings has increased significantly in the past two years in Abu Dhabi.

Recovery in the capital is alive and well.

Al Ain - "We absolutely insist on enjoying life." Al Ain continues to have a solid group with regular meetings carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to a diverse and unified community. We believe and show through our actions that through the practice of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous "the Age of Miracles is still with us."

Ras al Khaimah. The Friday morning meeting remains open. All are welcome!

Dubai – Alcoholics Anonymous is growing and thriving in Dubai. The Dubai Groups are hosting this year's 14th Annual MERCAA Convention on 5-6 November, 2015. The theme is "The Dunes of Happy Destiny" and should showcase the vast wonder and experience of recovery in Arabia.

Dubai hosts the UAE Intergroup. This is the primary source for literature, along with a thriving Professional Information (PI) outlet for Alcoholics Anonymous in the UAE. Again, the diversity of the community of AA in Dubai is testimony that when the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, one alcoholic sharing their experience, strength and hope with another; recovery blossoms even in the arid sands of Arabia.

In Conclusion, AA in the UAE is vibrant and growing. We have hotlines, websites and publications which are available 24/7 for the next suffering alcoholic who wants and needs to stop drinking. Certainly a Power much Greater than ourselves is working mightily to bring recovery to this land.

Bahrain

The Kingdom of Bahrain has eight meetings a week being held alternatively between the American Mission Hospital and the Sacred Heart Church in Manama, the Capital of Bahrain. We are at present looking at the possibilities of holding a new Arabic speaking meeting at the Amwaj area where the hospital has recently opened a new branch. The need for such a meeting is evident due to the increase in population.

AA Bahrain has finished drafting an Arabic translation of Living Sober. This has been submitted to GSO for review and we now await approval.

AA Bahrain's old timer Ammar, along with a colleague from AA Dubai, Tamer, are also working on the translation of the 12X12 book which will hopefully be completed by the end of the year. In Bahrain each meeting hosts approximately 30-35 members. The fellowship is mature, warm and loving and we are always looking for opportunities to provide service both in country and to MERCAA.

Egypt

Egypt has approximately 80 AA members across the country (15% of our members are expats)

- In the city of Dahab we have 1 loner each.
- In the city of Marsa Alam we have 1 loner.
- In the city of Hurghada we have a small group of 4 to 6 members.
- The rest of the members are in Cairo

We now have a total of 10 AA meetings per week across Egypt, with a total of 5 open meetings and 5 closed meetings.

In Cairo: we have 6 regularly scheduled meetings and 1 women only meeting per week. All of them are in English. We have just started one Arabic meeting.

In El-Gouna: we have 3 regularly scheduled meetings per week. One of them is in German 😊

We conduct our meetings in three venues in Cairo, one in a hospital in Maadi, the other in a Church in Zamalek, the third is a Nile Boat "serenity cruise" every Tuesday (we note that this meeting moved into the hospital in the winter and this year has not yet moved back to the boat for some reason. We have an average of 10 members in attendance in our Cairo meetings with Friday being our most popular day and often exceeding this number.

There has been a noticeable increase in our female members in the past couple of months, also there's been an increase of the available female members for sponsorship in this past year, which we consider a good sign because we always had a problem with having available female members to sponsor other females.

We are "trying" to have an intergroup business meeting every now and then, but it's been over a year now since we conducted our last intergroup meeting.

Observations: We do have new comers showing up at our meetings every now and then, a lot of them are from a well-known psychiatric hospital in Egypt which sends their patients to our meetings on a regular basis, but unfortunately very few of them do stay for long, also most of them are addicts; whom are very welcome in our meetings by the way, it is becoming very rare to find “only alcoholics” these days. As far as I know the number of members who have a problem with alcohol only in AA Egypt are less than 10, but most of us have a problem with alcohol and other drugs. In the past couple of years we have had members whom have joined by looking up AA Egypt on the internet and they contacted us accordingly through www.aaegypt.org, this is why we tend to keep our website updated with the contact list and meeting schedules.

Attendance is considerably higher than in the past couple of years, especially after the revolution in Jan-2011 where many of our expat members left the country.

Activities: There hasn't been much activities going on in the past period, example: no magazine ads, no H&I approach, etc...

Issues & challenges: We had to close down two of our Cairo meetings due to lack of attendance, so instead of having 7 meetings per week in Cairo we now have only 5.

In the past there used to be not enough women available for sponsorship, but we can observe that this got way much better as the number of female sponsors increased noticeably.

Another problem has been noticed in this past period which also involves our dear female members, especially the new members, which was they were approached by some of the our male members for reasons other than “recovery”, to a point that it got very irritating but the older members put our foot down and started educating new female members on how to deal with such approaches. Another challenge that we face is that there are not enough old timers available to do service in the conventional manner, a lot of us are very busy at work and we can barely make it to a meeting every now and then, but this pattern comes and goes.

Kuwait

Kuwait Ray of Hope Group celebrates its 33 anniversary on the 22nd October. Over the past two years, two additional meetings have opened which means that there is now one meeting available each day of the week. There has been an influx of new and younger members this year which is really exciting for our group and we are really pleased to report that we are now seeing, for the first time ever, an increase in young nationals coming to the meetings.

Due to Kuwait being such a transient place our numbers never really seem to grow past 35 or 40 members.

Of interest is that there is now one hospital in Kuwait where addicts can go for help with detoxing, without any reprisal or fear of being reported to the authorities. One small but important step forward in this ‘dry’ state to recognize addiction.

Jordan

Jordan has a core membership of approximately 8 members, which remains relatively the same year on. Also being a transient area, we receive most of our “business” from tourists and business people passing through Amman

One item of interest is that we have contact with a judge in the judicial system, and he has “recommended” several people who have come before him in court to our meetings, as he cannot do this officially, but these have mostly been drug addicts (since we’re the only 12 step program in town, our members are 50-50 AA/NA). But it is a start, nonetheless and we do try to maintain our singleness of purpose in our meetings.

Lebanon

The fellowship in Lebanon has not increased in numbers over these past two years, but still hosts active with 3 meetings a week.

Oman

Our Fellowship in The Sultanate of Oman is prominent and is functioning according to the traditions of AA and support from all members. We have a group of approximately 8-10 members. Newcomers do come from time to time, but many do not stay. Like other countries, we are lucky to have several visitors to our meetings throughout the year.

The public relations work is done through circulating pamphlets and information on bulletin board at grocery stores, hospitals and churches.

There are two meetings each week in Muscat, the Capital of Oman at the Sagar Polyclinic in Al Khuwair.

We have a loving fellowship which continues to do its best to serve the suffering alcoholic as much as possible.

Qatar

At the time of writing, October 2015, the Doha Recovery Group in the State of Qatar has 35-40 members. It is the only group in Qatar listed with MERCAA and GSO. While the majority of our members are Western expats, we have several active Qatari and Arab members. These bilingual (Arabic and English) members do a wonderful job in attracting and retaining new members in the group. In addition, we have several active women in the DRG who sponsor newcomers and have taken meetings into women-only treatment centers in Qatar

Qatar hosts 10 meetings per week. These meetings take place in either the Psychiatric Ward of the Hamad Hospital or the Al Ahli Hospital. The topics of meetings in Qatar include a speaker meeting, Big Book study, 12&12 study, As Bill Sees It meeting, open discussion, AA speaker tapes, and a meditation meeting.

Our website lists our meeting times, topics, and locations along with an email address and phone numbers in order to reach our fellowship. The website is a very successful tool in alerting both newcomers to Doha and newcomers to the program about our group.

In 2013, Qatar hosted a very successful MERCAA Convention and many of the members worked on its organization. We regularly donate money to MERCAA and to GSO in New York. Our business meetings are held once per month and are usually lively discussions. We have regular social events such as bowling nights, swimming parties, and other events.

Meetings in Qatar started in 1988 and grew through the years. By 2009 we had 4 meetings and advertised these on our website, www.aaqatar.org. Additional meetings were added quickly as new members with long periods of sobriety came to Qatar from the US, Canada, and the UK. The windup to the FIFA 2022 World Cup to be hosted in Qatar brought an influx of expats, many with AA experience and sobriety from other groups around the world. As of 2015, the group hosts 10 meetings in two different locations and 35-40 members.

Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has three main districts with substantial English-speaking expat populations (Riyadh/Central, Jeddah/West and Dammam/East all have active AA groups. All AA groups in the Kingdom support the regional organization and websites and all meetings are English speaking. The current meeting breakdown is as follows:

- Eastern Province – about twenty five regular members (Oasis AA Group)
- Al Khobar Fellowship Group (al Dana Compound) – four meetings per week
- Ras Tanura AA Group – one meeting per week
- Central Province – about fifteen regular members
- AA in Riyadh – two meetings per week
- Monday Evening – Step Study Meeting
- Friday Morning – Big Book Discussion Meeting
- Western Province – about ten regular members
- AA Red Sea Group – two meetings per week

Public Information and Outreach in KSA – AA groups in the Kingdom provide connections to and accept referrals from local hospitals, clinics and faith services. AA members are available for introductory visits, sponsorship and introduction to meetings. Male and female contacts are available by phone and email. Group literature reps ensure stock and availability of AA books and pamphlets. KSA groups helped support MERCAA activates, including translation of the Big Book into Arabic and participation in the regional convention and Workshops in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Report submitted October 2015

MERCAA Website : <https://sites.google.com/site/aamercaamecom>

Mongolia

Narlag Mongoloos mendchilj baina.

We are pleased to introduce the Mongolian AA country report to the 11th AOSM conference in Dubai in 2015.

A short introduction of Mongolia.

Mongolia is one of the last unspoiled pristine lands on our small planet - wild, splendid and virtually unimpeded vastness.

- Mongolia is a country in Central Asia. It borders Russia to the north and China to the east, south and west. It is a landlocked country with no sea border. Area - 1,564,116 sq km.
- Capital: Ulaanbaatar
- Currency: Mongolian Tugrik (1AED = 560 local currency MNT)
- Population: 3.001 million (2014)
- The official language is Mongolian language

Mongolia has 21 provinces, where 70% of provinces now have an Alcoholics Anonymous AA fellowship. Mongolian AA started in 1998, and daily activity is supported by the General Service Office (GSO) of Mongolian AA.

Mongolian AA has more than 80 AA groups and an estimated membership of 2000 members. Since 2013, the women's meeting membership increased 5 times.

The AA groups in Mongolia are very active and working towards good service structure and a supportive infrastructure. Mongolian AA conference is held every year, and a convention is held once every 2 years. Each group celebrates their anniversary.



Mongolian AA structure:

1. Chairpersons for a three-year term and elected by Conference.
2. Treasurer – 2 years terms
3. Secretary – 2 year terms
4. Conference
5. Groups

Mongolian AA Service office started work in December 2010. The trustees started work in 2012 according a conference resolution. One of the important decisions of the 4th conference was the election of two AOSM delegates.

Mongolian AA 2013 had 2 delegates attend the AOSM in Baikal, Russia. From June 2013 we started to see the Mongolian AA foreign relations starting to work more effectively.

The 2 delegates participated in committees at AOSM - "Working with others", and "Publication" committees. After AOSM some of the delegates from Hong Kong, Australia, India, New Zealand and Russian delegates visited Mongolia and participated in the 15th Anniversary of the Mongolian AA. In July 2013 delegates from Hong Kong, Australia recognised that Mongolian AA needed extra help, and suggested the workshops of the AA Steps and Traditions.

The first work shop was held in “Chingis Khaan” Camp, “12 x 12” workshop 19-21 July 2014, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.



The convention and workshop was attended by 257 people, including 13 foreigners and 244 local AA Members. More than 50 % of the participants 144 members, were from rural areas of Mongolia. At the Convention there was an opportunity for training with a "12 x 12" workshop by Foreign members.

The Mongolian AA members are grateful to Hong Kong AA and other countries members, who support and share their awesome experience of the Workshop.

In 2015 the second part “12 x 12” workshop was just held in 18-19 July at the Erin Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.



At the second workshop over 160 people participated including 10 foreigners and 150 local AA Members. More than 50 % of the participants 75-80 members, were from rural areas of Mongolia. Meantime, the Mongolian AA members of the fellowship communicate closely with Russian AA Siberian groups, especially Buriatian AA, Ulan-Ude city.

Mongolian AOSM delegates in 2013 asked about 6 book translations from GSO AA World Service Office observers Greg Tobin in Baikal, Russia.

1. Өдөр тутмын бодрол / “Daily reflections”/
2. Үйлчилгээний гарын авлага / “Service manual”/
3. “Came to believe”
4. “As Bill Sees it”
5. “AA comes of Age”
6. “Living sober” гэсэн 6 номыг монгол хэл дээр орчуулуулах хүсэлтийг багаар ярилцаж Greg Tobin, GSO хэвлэлийн албаны даргад хүргүүлсэн

We would like to kindly ask to assistance to Mongolian AA through the voice of the AOSM as follows:

1. To be given permission to start or continue the translation of these books.

2. To be assisted to apply for a printing license of the books already translated into Mongolian – namely

Big book "Alcoholics Anonymous", and
"12 steps and 12 traditions"

So that the message can be carried in a more affordable way – the cost of imported books is too high and we are unable to purchase quantities for distribution as members cannot afford to purchase them.

3. To have our translation of the brochure "Love & Service" (done in Mongolian) accepted and allow us to print it in Mongolia so that service structure can be understood

Statement of Responsibility

I am responsible
When anyone, anywhere
Reaches out for help
I want the hand of AA
Always to be there
And for that...
I am responsible.

SERENITY PRAYER

GOD grant me the
SERENITY to accept the things I cannot change,
COURAGE to change the things I can, and
WISDOM to know the difference

We would like to welcome AOSM members to the Mongolian AA Convention 2016.
Deegi, AOSM 2term delegate,
Mongolia.

New Zealand

Background

A.A. arrived in New Zealand in January 1946, when our founder Ian McE., while in a psychiatric institution, read a Readers Digest article about AA and wrote to GSO New York, seeking help. Our A.A. Service Structure was established in 1964 at a National Conference in Palmerston North.

General Service Conference

The General Service Conference meets biannually and is composed of nine elected area delegates, eight board members (two Class A and six Class B trustees), our two World Service delegates, the General Service Executive Officer (office manager), Conference Chair and Conference secretary. To ensure groups have the final authority, the only Conference members who can vote are the nine area delegates, the two Class A trustees and, Chair of the General Service Board. The Conference Chair has a casting vote only. All members of Conference have speaking rights.

Service Committees

Conference has four subcommittees: Public Information, Treatment & Correctional Facilities, Cooperating with Professionals, and International. Conference has the power to establish other committees, as required. The International Committee consists of the two World Service delegates, General Service Board Chair, Conference Chair, and Conference secretary. The committee is chaired by the 2nd term World Service delegate and the objective of the committee is to ensure New Zealand participates in international AA affairs in an efficient, practical, and ongoing, manner.

General Service Board

The New Zealand General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Inc. was incorporated on October 7, 1991. Incorporation provides a legal safety net under NZ law that protects individual office bearers from punitive action. The early days of the board were largely procedural, merely adopting financial statements and the like. However, over the last few years the board has been re-vitalised and now carries out all the “material work” as per Conference Advisory Action recommendations. The sole objective and purpose of the board is to aid and assist the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. The board consists of eight trustees; six alcoholics (Class B) and, two non-alcoholic (Class A). Members of the board are approved by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous after receiving recommendations from the board.

The General Service Board has six working committees: Archives, Communication, External Relations, Finance, Governance and Membership. An IT Development Committee is a subcommittee of the Communications Committee and the Mainstay, our national magazine, also comes under the communications committee.

The board also has the power to establish committees, as required, for example, the Annual Convention Committee. This is set up for each convention and is a separate committee and is formed and dissolved as conventions are rotated through New Zealand. (Held late January each year - see <http://www.aaconvention.org.nz/>)

Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM)

New Zealand's involvement with the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting is a major commitment with New Zealand and has had 2 delegates attending all AOSM since its inception. It also has pledged an

annual financial contribution (to help pay the airfares of the AOSM Chair and Secretary) as well as, at times, will consider sponsoring countries to attend AOSM The World Service delegates are appointed by the New Zealand General Service Conference and have the dual responsibility as delegates to both the World Service Meeting (WSM) and the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting during their 4-year term. Delegates are appointed every two years which ensures continuity with the year 1 delegate being sponsored into the role by the term 2 Delegate.

We continue Country to Country Sponsorship project whereby local groups sponsor a small island nation in our zonal area where AA is small or non-existent and assist with donations of literature and any other information required. Our areas of interest are the Pacific Islands to the north of New Zealand - NZ has a long history with these small island countries. Currently the country we have worked with the most is Samoa.

General Service Office

Our GSO is located in Wellington, New Zealand's capital city, and is staffed by one paid, non-AA employee, who is occasionally assisted by voluntary A.A. members, and one part-time, paid non-AA assistant. The office services a New Zealand Fellowship of an estimated 5,000 members with approximately 500 registered groups. The office is open daily, Monday to Friday and, outside these hours, a telephone answering service operates.

Literature

Our GSO carries most books and literature published by AA World Services Inc. and many by AA Grapevine Inc. We only stock AA Approved literature. New Zealand publishes a bi-monthly meeting in print entitled Mainstay. Occasional email newsletters are sent to the fellowship, advising of decisions made by Conference and any other general information.

Public Information

New Zealand has public information committees at all levels, Conference, area and some districts or intergroups. These groups organize and conduct public awareness campaigns, including public A.A. meetings, radio and TV announcements and ongoing speaking commitments in medical schools, schools, service clubs and other interested groups. Major public information projects are usually undertaken during Founders' Week in June and during Public Awareness Week in October. The board assists by allocating funds and co-ordinating at the national level along with significant mailings of information, media kits etc.

Police Initiative

At the April 2012 meeting of the New Zealand Conference, approval was given for an "Police Initiative" project as a pilot scheme in Auckland our largest city. The aim was to: create a greater awareness and knowledge within frontline Police of Alcoholics Anonymous within Community and its effective option for referral for people who acknowledge a problem with alcohol and indicate a desire to stop drinking. Five police stations were involved in the pilot and involved having a permanent brochure holder affixed to the wall at these police stations containing AA pamphlets and contact details and ensuring the personal were fully informed about AA: AA members held 'demonstration' meetings for the staff. This has been successful and after the trial is now being used in a few other NZ towns and cities.

Website

New Zealand AA website (www.aa.org.nz) has been adapted for local conditions, and includes a NZ meeting directory which can be downloaded. There is a 'members only' page which can only be accessed by password and contains information for members such as area minutes, application details for vacant service structure positions and some AA events. The webpage also has a dedicated page for our annual convention (January) and also has links to AA on Air in NZ.

Find a Meeting App

New Zealand has an excellent find a meeting app (currently only for androids - will add one for the numerically smaller iOS phones soon) Search your app store for 'findameeting NZ')

Russia

Number of the Groups

The activity of AA Fellowship in Russia has been started in the late 80ths. The first Moscow group of AA has been registered at GSO in 1987. Today there are more than 500 groups in 120 local areas of Russia. The groups are mostly concentrated in large cities. Some of them organize meetings several times a week. There are about 100 groups in 30 settlements in Asian part of our Country to check. For the last several years we see a clear growth in AA groups' county in this part of our Country.

Structure

The General Service Conference of Russia has been annually being held in early April for three days. GSC is represented by delegates of the groups from the places, where there are still no local service committees, delegates from the local committees, members of the GSB involved in rendering service in Russia, delegates from Russia' AA elected for the WSM, ESM, AOSM, the chief officer in AA service. For the last time the number of voting participants is not above 40.

The Conference forms Committees for development of recommendations related on the main directions of service in Russia, elects the GSB members.

The Conference based on the "Service manual of Russia's AA Fellowship".

Some members of GSB supported by GSO AA have been holding May's meetings, consisted of representatives of 50 groups from different parts of our Country since 2012. They also call the alternative meeting "The Conference".

According to the decision of GSB AA and WS AA two licenses for publishing AA literature have been given since 2013 till today, the life time of mentioned above is over in November 2015.

This year we were offered to choose a definite legal unity which the license might be submitted to. Unfortunately, such a unity is not defined still, so the procedure of withdrawal of license has been being in process now since the first of July. The publishing of literature will be a business of WS AA.

On the 15th of July we received news from GSB AA that the right to publish and spread AA's literature in Russia will be transmitted to RSO of AA. We hope this decision founded on the AA members' consciousness and expressed in the solution of the 27th Conference of Russia will help us to build the only structure of receiving in AA in our country.

Finance

The total sum of donation was 460 000 rubles in 2013 and 700 000 rubles in 2014.

Literature

At this time 9 books in Russian have been published in our country. These are: "Alcoholics Anonymous", "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", "Living Sober", "Came to Believe", "Daily Reflections", "AA Came To Age", "As Bill Sees It", "Doctor Bob and Good Old Timers", "Service Manual" (USA and Canada). Furthermore, 40 booklets have been published.

The book "Alcoholics Anonymous" (4th edn.) has been published in its complete form, i.e. with a collection of histories. A preliminary variant (without histories) and a pocket size variant have also

been published. The 25th Russian conference of the Russian AA Fellowship has approved the process of publication for this 4th edition. Furthermore, since 2008, the work bound up with refining the translation of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" has been conducted. In 2013, the preparatory work related to publishing some of the chapters with improved translation has been initiated.

Supply of the Russian AA Fellowship with literature is organized and maintained by the GSB via the area and district service committees (literary committees, intergroups). These committees fix the final prices for the books depending on the local living standards, but with an excess not larger than 20 per cent of the prices fixed by the Russian GSB.

Some of the groups are supplied with literature by the Service Foundation. This legal body is a noncommercial organization, which during the period of establishing of the service structure for the Russian AA Fellowship, also has a right of publishing and distribution of AA literature in Russian.

About Russian AA Fellowship

Since the time of the 10th AOSM meeting devoted to the serving in Asia and Oceania the problems we have owing to the lifehood of two structures are stable. In spite of this we've managed to save the RA of Eastern Siberia and the Far East as a whole, and continue to carrying our message to those alcoholics, who is still suffering, and to continue AA' developing in Eastern Siberia and the Far East.

The number of groups has engaged. 61 groups are checked today in ES and the Far East. So there are 4 cities in Primorskiy region now that have AA groups. They are Vladivostok, Artem, Ussuriysk, Nakhodka. Chukotka also has groups now.

Once in two weeks the RC of WS and the FE is gathered where the representatives from regions share the news, experiences, founded on the 5th tradition. They help to develop the AA's movement in our region all together. So in 2014 three packages with AA literature based on the resources of RC were sent to Chukotka, the visit to Ust - Ulinsk in Irkutskiy region based on the 5th tradition was funded, and there is a decision to allocate funds to organize trip to Nikolaevsk - on - Amure according to the 5th tradition.

International relations are strengthening. Three women from Australia visited Vladivostok and Ulan - Ude in July 2014 after having run seminars on steps and traditions in Mongolia. They shared their experiences in recovering and servicing.

Observers from Mongolia, South Korea, Poland and Finland were present on the Assembly of ES and the FE.

Strict structures in serving were found in Western Siberia. One belongs to Altai (where there are 20 groups), another one belongs to Omsk (there are 9 groups where).

The structure of serving in Irkutsk is checked in Eastern Siberia, which the groups of Krasnoyarsk have joined to. The link level between groups and structures is becoming more extensive. Groups of Khakassia, Tuva and Krasnoyarsk (though it sounds strange) are sponsored by AA groups of

Zheleznogorsk (one closed nuclear city, it's population is about 100000 persons). Groups in Irkutskiy region especially in Bodaiboo (a city of gold diggers, situated in deep taiga) are supported by using Internet and plane flight. Bodaiboo is 1000 kilometers away from Irkutsk.

In different cities, towns and villages AA members regularly hold outreach activities, consisted of open meetings in Enisei District and Altai. The majority of local Conventions are annually held. The exchange of experiences between the cities does a great deal in growth of AA movement.

Sri Lanka

Alcoholics Anonymous Started in Sri Lanka in August 1964 by the then Secretary of the Young Mens Christian Association.

In the inception A.A. meetings were conducted in Colombo, the Capital of Sri Lanka in the English Language only, in the early 1980s a few members started meetings in the Sinhala Language in the outskirts of Colombo and these meetings started to grow slowly but surely, There were many members Sober for as long as 20-25 years even without seen the Sinhala Big Book until very recently the translation of the Big Book took place (around 2007).

In the Year 2001 we managed to start a few groups in the Tamil Language in the War torn areas of the North & east of Sri Lanka these groups still exist, some of the members are sober for 10 – 15 years most of them are still in refugee camps some are physically handicapped, some of them cannot even read & write, however they are sober by word of mouth after listening to the shares of the members who travelled to these camps to carry the message and help them achieve sobriety. A.A. in Sri Lanka has now spread to many parts of the country, but a lot of work has still to be done. We now have around 40 groups which operate in Hospitals, Temples, Churches, Hindu Temples. Community Centres, Schools & Rehabilitation Centres.

In the year 2011, We Managed set up the first Inter Group in Sri Lanka, and in the 2013 we opened the first service office at Ja-ela which is around 10 kilometers North of Colombo City and is in close proximity to The Colombo International Air Port.

We have a full time Staff member who co-ordinates the work from this office, We also have set up a web site with information of the meetings and details of whom to contact , should someone need assistance.

After the 2011 AOSM The Australian Fellowship helped us to conduct some awareness programs for which we are very grateful.

The New Zealand Fellowship also sent us more than a 100 English big books for which we are also very grateful.

India, our neighbor has always been of assistance in giving us the necessary inspiration to set up the inter group & also sent Indian GSO members whenever we had teething problems in areas of problem handling with regard to Unity & Service of A.A as a whole in Sri Lanka.

The Problem of Alcohol addiction in Sri Lanka is enormous and the work done to date is like drop in the ocean, therefore we look forward to step up our efforts to help those who are still suffering and carry the message to all corners of our lovely & friendly island.

Thailand

This is the Thailand Country report submitted to AOSM for the 2015 meeting. Here we will discuss our experience, strength and hope. In addition to some serious progress, the experience is fraught with challenges and often frustrations. Our strength lies in what we have accomplished especially in the areas of Thai language literature and beginnings of Community Outreach through PI, CPC and H&I work. Our hope lies in faith that Alcoholics Anonymous will work if we work it, and in the fact that our fellow AOSM members are available for counsel.

Overview:

There are several excellent AA groups and meetings in Thailand. There are perhaps 300 to 350 recovering alcoholics in all of Thailand. There is a cadre of less than 50 who are actively involved in service; service positions often go unfilled. Thai language AA, though still in its infancy, is starting to take root.

Area Structure:

The Thailand Area members consist of all GSR's (or alternate), the DCM's and Area officers including Area Chairman, 1st Term Delegate, 2nd Term Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer, Translation, Literature, Archivist and Webmaster. Note: (The Area Chairman serves as the Alternate Delegate and the 1st Term Delegate serves as the Alternate Chairman. This concept helps with continuity, rotation and is an economical use of human resources. Other service position such as H&I, CPC and PI have not been created due to the sparse population of the recovering alcoholics).

Five Districts (See attached map)

The Thailand Area is structured into five districts. The overall area is sparsely populated with pockets of AA meetings in centers of population. This structure is what it is and will suffice for the near term. However, as the native Thai speaking meetings become more prevalent this structure will need to be changed, especially in the North East and the South. Currently we have:

Northern District: Consists of several groups in Chiang Mai and a group in Chiang Rai. The district is well structured and active. There is a CPC committee which places information stands in hospitals and other locations. There are two Thai Language meetings, one supported well by the district and another part of a group in Chiang Mai City. The latter is struggling. Chiang Mai has the 2nd most AA meetings of any city in Thailand.

North Eastern District: Currently there is no district structure in force. The area is huge and very sparsely populated. There are meetings in throughout the district, mostly in English. There are some Thai language meetings in Khon Khean, the Korat area and Nan Rong.

Central District: Most meetings are in Bangkok and the surrounding suburbs. This is the largest concentration of meetings in the Kingdom of Thailand. There is a CPC committee in the Central District.

Eastern Seaboard: The Pattaya area consists of the 3rd largest number of AA meetings in Thailand. They have an H&I committee which is now taking a meeting to a Thai prison.

Phuket District: The island of Phuket. The most independent of the districts.

SIX REGIONS: For the purpose of listing AA meetings on the website. Meetings are listed by day and time. Also there are several which are listed as "call for a meeting, no set time"

These are usually loners. The country is divided into six areas:

Bangkok – Currently 39 meetings per week.

Central Thailand - Currently 2 meetings per week, plus 2 "call for a meeting, no set time"

Eastern Seaboard Currently 27 meetings per week

Southern – 46 meetings plus 2 “call for a meeting, no set time” Many of these meetings are scattered throughout the Southern Islands. The rest are on Phuket.

Northern – 50 meetings plus 2 “call for a meeting, no set time”

North East – 28 meetings plus 5 “call for a meeting, no set time”



Accomplishments

Translation to Thai In the past two years much progress has been made toward completing an acceptable version of the big book. We have also published “What Happened to Joe”, “The 12 Steps Illustrated” and “The 12 Traditions Illustrated”.

Website. Our website www.aathailand.org is stable, informative, and almost always current. Current efforts to list more Thai language meetings and the website now have the ability to select either English or Thai language. It also serves as a portal for people outside Thailand requesting information.

Challenges

Age and Gender Demographics: The majority of recovering alcoholics in Thailand are older, white and male. Many have come here to retire, and seem to have the attitude that they have done their service and it’s time for someone else. Many attend a few meetings a week, but choose not to involve themselves in service; they seem to have the attitude that they are retired. Many meetings consist of all males and some are avoided by women. Many of the younger recovering alcoholics are also in Narcotics Anonymous; some report that they can better identify there because of the demographics of AA.

Expat culture and attitudes: Too often I’ve heard expats complain that the Thai’s don’t understand English, ask who will pay for a translator and refer to the Thai language meetings as “Thai AA” There is a sense of separation that is felt by the natives of our host country, Thailand. It’s just wrong and it stands in the way of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, especially if he or

she happens to be Thai. Fortunately this attitude seems to be less prevalent than it was say two years ago.

Thai Language It is extremely difficult for foreigners, especially old white men, to become sufficiently proficient in the Thai language to do effective 12th step work, sponsor people, conduct and attend meetings. There are sober members of AA who are native Thai speakers; time will produce more. Thailand AA will evolve as it should.

Thai Culture: The culture of Thailand is different than other countries. It's not better, nor is it worse, it's just different. These differences cause frustrations among Westerners trying to carry the message and stay within the guidelines of the 12 traditions. Examples include:

- Thailand is a top down society. Many "AA meetings" were established by Thai Government officials. The problem then becomes that the members expect the government to support the meeting.
- Copyright violations are the rule rather than the exception. In this country, you can take any book to the local print shop and have several copies made cheaply and quickly.

Financial Capabilities As has been noted by the GSO in New York there is an increasing tendency for AA meetings to occupy clubs. Groups that move to clubs usually end up paying more rent and therefore have less 7th tradition surplus to donate to their district and the area.

Geography: Thailand is approximately 513,000 square kilometers in size. Population centers such as Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Pattaya and Phuket have established English Language meetings, plus a smattering of meetings in other languages including Finnish, German and Russian. Thai meetings in and near these population centers are starting to appear. However, much of Thailand has no Alcoholics Anonymous, yet.

Outreach:

Within Thailand: "I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible." Within our limited capabilities we do strive to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. More are reaching out for help, but most have no idea what AA really is, how it can be integrated into their lives. Cultural and Language challenges are very real. More real is the fact that drinking alcoholics are everywhere. We have much to do, we have only a few people willing to be involved and at times it's exhausting! The current delegates, Bob and Jerry often discuss what might be the best approach given our situation. We are learning and hope the experience of other delegates from other areas will provide renewed strength and perhaps even new wisdom.

There are massive areas of Thailand which are sparsely populated. These areas may have the most critical need in terms of "drunks per capita", yet they are the most difficult to reach.

In our view it's imperative that there be one and only one AA in Thailand, and that it supports people of all cultures and languages. Jerry's personal aspiration is to attend an AA Thailand Assembly that is conducted in the Thai language with some English translations being provided. "This we owe to

A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come”.

Across Boarder: There is some possibility that the Northern District might be able to do some outreach to the Burmese. The Northern District borders Myanmar, as does the Central District. Perhaps in the future the Northern District and / or the Central District we will be able to do some things as a pre-cursor to an area effort. This may happen through individuals with a passion for carrying the message who happen to be in a position to be of assistance. One example is one man who went to Yagon, came back and shipped some AA literature at his own expense. Hopefully in the not too distant future, the Thailand Area may be ready to consider this sort of 12th step work as an AA structured entity. We don't have the people to attempt or sustain such projects at this time.

Love in Service,

Jerry [REDACTED]

Bob M [REDACTED]

n, Delegate

Section 5 – AOSM Background & Reference

1978-1993 First proposed at 1978 Helsinki WSM, discussed in Australia 1982. Again proposed 1985 New York with some discussion in New Zealand.

1992 New York WSM informal discussions among Delegates

1993 Conference New Zealand approved the go ahead, followed by research, discussions and planning with GSO Japan.

1994 Informal meeting held in Tokyo between members of both Japanese and New Zealand Fellowships to discuss Pan Pacific Zonal Meeting.

1995 1st Asian-Oceania Service Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan. In Attendance; Hong Kong, Vanuatu, Korea, Japan and New Zealand, with GSO New York. Theme: “Twelve Stepping your Neighbour Country”.

1997 2nd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Auckland, New Zealand. In Attendance; Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Australia and Japan with GSO New York. Theme: “Friends we have not Met”.

1999 3rd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Sydney, Australia. In Attendance; Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Indonesia with GSO New York. Theme: “Our Primary Purpose”.

2001 4th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Seoul, Korea. In Attendance; Japan, Korea, Russian Federation, Philippines, Cambodia, Malaysia, East Timor, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia with GSO New York. Theme: “The Growing AA Family”.

2003 5th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Hong Kong. In Attendance; Hong Kong, Japan, People's Republic of China, Mongolia, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Australia and New Zealand with GSO New York. Theme: “The Three Legacies-Recovery, Unity, Service”.

2005 6th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Surfers Paradise, Australia. In Attendance; Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand with GSO New York. Theme: “Sponsorship — Unity In Ever Widening Circles”

2007 7th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Saitama Japan. Attended by Australia Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, MERCAA, Mongolia, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and New York. Theme: “Global Growth through Structured Groups”.

2009 8th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. In Attendance; Australia; Bhutan; Hong Kong; India; Japan; New Zealand; Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Thailand. Theme: “Reaching Out”.

2011 9th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in India, in Attendance; Australia; Bhutan; Hong Kong; India; Japan; New Zealand; Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Thailand. Theme: “Singleness of Purpose”.

2013 10th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Irkutsk Russia. In Attendance; Australia; Hong Kong; India; Japan; MERCAA, Mongolia; New Zealand; Russia; Thailand. Theme: “Carrying the Message Beyond Borders”.

2015 11th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Dubai. In Attendance; Australia; Bangladesh; Hong Kong; India; Indonesia; Iran; Japan; MERCAA; Mongolia; New Zealand; Russia; Sri Lanka; Thailand. Theme: “Carrying the Message through Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community” (PI & CPC)”

The Serenity Prayer

GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY
TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE
COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN
AND WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.